

... Tuesday, July 23, 1996

... 800 ...

... American ...

... after being ...

... drug-laced ...

New currency coins in circulation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will today, Wednesday, introduce new currency coins of the one dinar, half dinar and quarter dinar denominations. This decision follows the 1971 CBJ Law No. 23 and the 1996 Bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency (No. 11). The coins, which have new specifications, will circulate alongside the existing coins of the same denomination. Both will remain legal tenders. One side of the new coins has a likeness of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the two phrases "Hussein Bin Talal, The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic, while the reverse side has the denomination encircled by Islamic ornaments, the denomination in writing in Arabic and English, the Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue, and the phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily newspaper

جوردين تايمز

عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي

Jordan Press Foundation

King receives message from Clinton

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. special coordinator for the Middle East Dennis Ross has delivered to His Majesty King Hussein a message from President Bill Clinton on the future of the Arab-Israeli peace process, the State Department said. Mr. Ross also delivered a similar message to Sultan Qaboos of Oman and held talks with Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Ben Sultan during the stopover in London en route to Syria and Israel, Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. The message from Mr. Clinton, which was delivered on Monday, outlines the results of the recent visit to Washington of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and expresses "our hope that negotiations between Israel and Arabs move forward on various tracks," he said. Mr. Ross told Mr. Burns by phone that the meetings in London were "excellent, productive, even better than expected," according to the spokesman.

Volume 21 Number 6281

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1996, RABI I, 8, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Sultan Qaboos, Senegal president congratulate King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received a telephone call from Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman, who congratulated the King on the successful surgery he underwent at a London clinic. Sultan Qaboos wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The King also received a cable from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, congratulating him on the successful surgery and wishing him speedy recovery.

Bundestag president starts visit

AMMAN (Petra) — President of German parliament (Bundestag) Rita Suessmuth arrived here Tuesday on a four-day visit during which she will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials and discuss economic issues raised in the Amman economic summit as well as the peace process. In a statement upon arrival at Queen Alia Airport, Dr. Suessmuth described Jordanian-German relations as "good" and praised the Kingdom's efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East. She was received at the airport by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour and other officials.

U.N. panel approves payments for Gulf war losses

GENEVA (AP) — Buoyed by the prospects of revenue from Iraqi oil sales, a U.N. panel agreed Tuesday to award \$323 million to victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The U.N. Compensation Commission approved payments to some 64,000 people who had losses of up to \$100,000. The commission has had enough money so far to pay only \$14 million of the total \$200 billion in claims. The so-called oil-for-food agreement is expected to provide the commission's compensation fund with \$100 million each month.

Bodies of 3 missing since 1994 found

AMMAN (AFP) — Builders have accidentally found the remains of three people in a mud-submerged jeep who had been missing since flash floods struck the northern areas of the Kingdom in 1994. Two Jordanians, aged 58 and 70, and a 23-year-old Egyptian labourer, were reported missing after the floods in Mafrag, 72 kilometres northeast of Amman. The bodies were found Monday when a fork-lift truck struck a Toyota Landcruiser totally submerged in the mud. The contractor, who was working near the flood site, immediately informed the police, who found three decomposed bodies in the vehicle.

Hundreds said dead in Libyan mutiny

CAIRO (AFP) — A mutiny in a Libyan jail containing political prisoners left hundreds dead among guards and detainees, the Libyan opposition in Cairo said Tuesday. "According to information from Libyans who have travelled to Egypt, the mutiny which erupted on July 5 in Bouslim Prison near Tripoli left hundreds dead among political prisoners and officers," an opposition leader told AFP, asking not to be named.

Jordan, France stress need to resume peace talks on all tracks

De Charette: Paris will take initiatives to ensure revival of peace process

By Mervat Suwadeh with agency dispatches

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette concluded a one-day visit to the Kingdom Tuesday during which he held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

The talks also dealt with economic issues and French financial aid to the Kingdom. This year, France provided the Kingdom with loans amounting to JD 11.2 million and Mr. de Charette said that his country will provide Jordan with grants on case-by-case basis.

In a press conference before leaving for Israel on the fourth leg of his Middle Eastern tour, Mr. de Charette said that France, which is trying to be more involved in the Middle East, is not competing with the United States for a role in the peace process, but rather seeking "cooperation and coordination" with it in order to revive the stalled peace talks.

Mr. de Charette said that

his country could offer "a favourable contribution," alongside others, to the peace process in the Middle East.

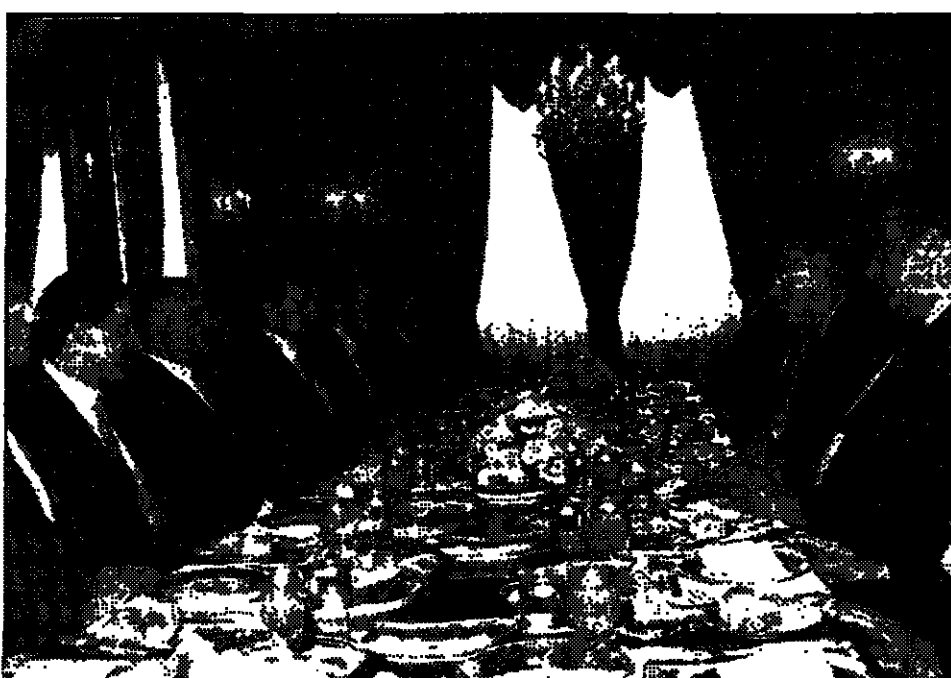
"We do not want to monopolise a role in the Middle East," Mr. de Charette said. "But we think that peace negotiations should be conducted on a dual track rather than a single one," he told reporters.

He said "you might think that we compete with the United States, and there could be reasons for this thinking, but for us it is matter of coordination not competition."

Mr. de Charette arrived in Amman Tuesday afternoon on the third leg of a regional tour aimed at giving impetus to the stalled peace process.

Mr. de Charette also hailed Jordanian-French relations, saying that the two countries have "identical views" on key issues related to the situation in the region.

Mr. de Charette reiterated his country's stance regarding the Middle East peace process, which, he said, is based on the "strict application of the Security



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday hold talks with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and the accompanying delegation (Photo by Youssef Al'Allan)

Council resolutions."

"The peace process should be based on two principles, first the right for self-determination for the Palestinians and second the land-for-peace principle," he maintained.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher said that

"Jordan hopes to see France and the European Union play a political role in relaunching the peace process and not limiting itself to just supporting the process economically."

Dr. Muasher also told reporters that the talks Prince Hassan and Mr.

Kabariti held with Mr. de Charette focussed on the outcome of Mr. de Charette's visit to Syria and Lebanon and the need to resume the peace process on all tracks.

Dr. Muasher added that

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat, Levy find common ground

EREZ CHECKPOINT, Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Breaking the ice with the Palestinians, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy met Tuesday with Yasser Arafat and said the two discovered enough common ground to continue with peacemaking.

Mr. Levy and Mr. Arafat repeatedly shook hands and smiled for the cameras after their two-hour exchange, the first top-level contacts since the May 29 election victory of Israeli right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The meeting was also a turning point for Mr. Netanyahu's hardline Likud Party which for years had demonised Mr. Arafat as a murderer and denounced those holding talks with him, including Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor, Shimon Peres.

"History. Who would have believed it?" said an Israeli TV commentator as the Levy-Arafat handshake was broadcast.

Mr. Arafat was cordial and relaxed Tuesday during a joint news conference with Mr. Levy — in marked contrast to his downcast demeanour in the weeks following the defeat of Mr. Peres, his peace partner.

"We shall work side-by-side in order to support this relationship for the benefit of Israel and the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said.

He said he and Mr. Levy approached each other with "open hearts" and that he hoped the same spirit would guide future talks.

Mr. Arafat said he expected that the remaining elements of the autonomy

agreement, including a partial Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron, be carried out "very soon."

Mr. Levy did not refer to any specific agreements, but profusely praised Mr. Arafat's openness and readiness to cooperate.

"I have no doubt that what we achieved today will give a push to the process that is meant to bring peace to Israel and the Palestinians," the foreign minister said.

Israeli Radio said the meeting was conducted in Arabic and Hebrew, with translators at their side. The Moroccan-born Levy speaks some Mughrabi, a Moroccan dialect of Arabic, which is often difficult for Palestinians to understand.

Mr. Netanyahu reiterated Tuesday that he felt he should only meet with Mr. Arafat if it was vital for Israel's security. He reportedly made the remarks in a closed-door session of parliament's defense and foreign affairs committee.

The prime minister said the Levy-Arafat exchange was aimed at starting talks between Israel and the Palestinians on how to fulfill pledges made in earlier peace agreements.

"The purpose of these negotiations would be to complete the interim agreements that have not been completed because of Palestinian Authority violations," Mr. Netanyahu told reporters in Jerusalem.

I think this will help us put into place the formula 1

(Continued on page 7)

No signs a bomb caused TWA crash

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A Clinton administration official said Tuesday that tests so far by the FBI on wreckage from TWA Flight 800 showed no signs that a bomb caused the explosion.

"We have no results that the residues tested positive" to indicate that a bomb had been responsible, said the official, who declined to be identified. He was elaborating on remarks by the White House that the wreckage appeared to show traces of chemical residue.

The official said the residue tests, involving metal and plastic wreckage and not human tissue, had been done overnight or earlier Tuesday at the FBI's laboratory at its Washington headquarters.

"The testing here shows no residue of a bomb," the official said. But he added that further tests would be conducted as more wreckage, including the fuselage, was recovered from the Atlantic Ocean.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta earlier told reporters while travelling with President Bill Clinton in California that the results of the tests were expected within 24 or 48 hours. The official said that apparently referred to two pieces of wreckage being shipped to the FBI laboratory Tuesday.

Mr. Panetta later said he had received his information from a White House briefing. "Until I hear differently I am going to stick with this information."

Asked about speculation that a terrorist blast downed the Paris-bound plane on Wednesday with 230 people on board, Mr. Panetta said: "The problem is until you get that actual analysis, it's tough

to come to that conclusion."

"But clearly, that's the area that they're looking at most closely and they need to ship it to the FBI lab ... to get an accurate assessment of what the chemical residue was."

Asked if the president was considering a visit to the families of the victims, Mr. Panetta said a decision would be made soon on an "appropriate forum" for the meetings.

In New York meanwhile, lawyers involved in lawsuits over the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland say they have already been contacted to represent some of the families of victims of last Wednesday's TWA crash.

Lee Kreindler, lead plaintiff's lawyer in the litigation against Pan Am and its insurers, told Reuters he has been hired by the family of two victims and his office has received other calls. The New York firm of Baumeister Samuels, which was also active in the Lockerbie litigation, said it had received calls but had not yet been retained.

Lawyers said that although no cause for the explosion has yet been determined, there are only three possibilities: A problem with the plane itself, a bombing or missile attack.

Mr. Kreindler said while there was speculation the disaster that killed 230 people was caused by an explosive device, the Boeing 747 also has a history of structural cracks.

Less than two per cent of the jet has been recovered so far, but both ABC and CNN television news have reported that investigators were leaning toward the sabotage theory based on the evidence of a wing fragment found last week.

Israeli agent tells of cold-blooded killing of two Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli security agent has described publicly for the first time the cold-blooded killing of two Palestinians captured after a bus hijack, a newspaper reported here Tuesday.

Ehud Yatom, 48, who is leaving the internal security agency Shin Beth after 24 years service, told the Yediot Aharanot daily he was proud of the operation in which all four Palestinian gunmen were killed on April 12, 1984.

Mr. Yatom, in excerpts of an interview to be published in full on Friday, said Shin Beth agents covered up the truth surrounding the killings and lied to a commission of inquiry about the events surrounding the hijacking of a bus near Tel Aviv.

Two of the Palestinian commandos were killed when the bus was stormed and the two others captured and photographed by media covering the hijacking.

The two Palestinian prisoners were "put in the transit (car) and set off. En route, I received an order from (Shin Beth chief) Avraham Shalom to kill them, and so I killed them," Mr. Yatom said.

"I am one of the few who came away from the affair with a clear conscience. I am proud of what I did," he said.

The execution of the two Palestinians on the orders of the then — leader of Shin Beth caused a huge scandal in Israel at the time, but the 11 agents involved in the operation were all given a presidential pardon.

'Netanyahu to propose pullout from Lebanon'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to propose to U.S. envoy Dennis Ross a conditional Israeli pullout from southern Lebanon in a bid to relaunch the peace talks with Syria, the daily Haaretz said Tuesday.

Under the proposed deal Israel would withdraw from the border strip it has occupied in southern Lebanon since 1985 in return for the disarmament of Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas, the paper said.

Mr. Netanyahu will also ask for some kind of deployment to guarantee security along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, the scene of tense cross-border clashes and raids.

According to Haaretz, he

discussed his proposals with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington earlier this month and with Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Thursday.

He is due to meet with Mr. Ross, the U.S. State Department coordinator for the Middle East, on Thursday, the paper added.

Mr. Ross arrived in Syria on Tuesday for talks with President Hafez Al-Assad on how to resume Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Shortly before Mr. Ross arrived, Syria's state-run radio said Damascus will not resume talks with Israel unless Mr. Netanyahu abandons his opposition to trading occupied Arab land for peace.

"There will be no dealing with the government of Mr. Netanyahu unless it cancels its settlement plans

and clearly commits itself to the return of the occupied Arab lands," the radio said.

The radio repeated Syria's criticism of the United States for failing to put pressure on Mr. Netanyahu during the premier's visit to Washington last month.

Mr. Ross, who will visit Israel and Jordan before returning to Washington, held talks in London on Monday with His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos of Oman on how to revive the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Experts say the Israeli-Syrian talks, on ice since February, could be resumed on the basis of the invitations sent by the United States to both sides to join the 1991 Madrid

(Continued on page 7)

Iran played 'crucial' role in Israel-Hizbollah prisoner swap

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran played a "crucial" role in the unprecedented prisoner swap between Israel and Lebanon's Hizbollah, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday.

"Iran, along with Germany, played a crucial role in making the deal a success," he told the English-language daily Iran News.

The minister confirmed that German envoy Bernd Schmidbauer, who mediated the deal, was "recently" in Tehran and welcomed Germany's "active role in the region, like France's in coordination with Iran."

On Sunday the Hizbollah released 17 members of Israel's proxy militia the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and returned the remains of two Israeli soldiers, in exchange for the bodies of 123 anti-Israeli fighters and 45 Lebanese prisoners freed from the notorious Khiam Jail in South Lebanon.

Tehran for its part asked Bonn to work to determine the fate of three Iranian diplomats and a photographer with Iran's official news agency IRNA missing in Lebanon since 1982. Tehran believes they were kidnapped and taken to

Israel.

"We hope that the efforts of Mr. Schmidbauer will lead to determine the fate of Iranian diplomats who have been transferred to Israel according to reliable information," foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said Monday.

He said his country would "spare no effort to ensure the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners and return of remains by the Zionist regime."

Israel's former Prime Minister Shimon Peres admitted Monday for the first time that the Jewish state had had indirect con-

tacts with Iran over the prisoner issue in secret German-mediated negotiations.

Mr. Schmidbauer said Tuesday he was convinced an Israeli pilot missing for 10 years was still alive.

"I have signs that justify the impression that Ron Arad is alive," Mr. Schmidbauer told the German daily Bild.

"There will soon be other discussions for the return of three other dead Israeli soldiers and the exchange of the Israeli pilot Ron Arad," he added.

Arad was shot down over southern Lebanon in 1986, and is the only one of six

missing Israeli soldiers still thought by Israel to be alive and in detention.

Israel has accused the Iranian-backed Hizbollah of holding Arad, but the organisation has denied the charges.

Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said Monday that his guerrillas had promised Mr. Schmidbauer they would try to find news of Arad's fate.

Other unconfirmed reports have said that Arad was being held in Iran, but that has been denied by the Islamic republic.

U.S. authorises employees to leave Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department said that all U.S. government employees based in Saudi Arabia, as well as their families, who wished to return home for security reasons could do so at government expense.

In a statement, spokesman Nicholas Burns on Monday said Secretary of State Warren Christopher had approved the voluntary departure of all U.S. government employees in Saudi Arabia and their dependents at government expense.

But Mr. Burns said: "The U.S. government is confident in the stability of Saudi Arabia and in its commitment to provide security for all Americans in the kingdom."

"By this action the U.S. government does not recommend that U.S. citizens or their families depart Saudi

Arabia. The U.S. government does encourage them to take appropriate and prudent precautions given the security situation in the region," he said.

A State Department spokeswoman said there were "several hundred" Americans involved in official duties in Saudi Arabia as well as up to 5,000 U.S. troops at bases there who would qualify for free transport out of the country. The statement did not say whether such departures would be considered temporary or permanent.

Earlier on Monday, Saudi security forces sealed off a road in Riyadh and removed suspicious parcels after a bomb scare on the block where five Americans and two Indians were killed by a bomb last year, according to residents.

The incident followed a second bomb attack last month in which 19 American airmen were killed at a military housing complex in the eastern city of Dhahran.

The parcels were found in a 1.5-metre gap between newly erected concrete security barriers and a high wall surrounding a U.S. housing compound, residents said. It was less than 500 metres from the site of last November's car bomb at a U.S.-run military training centre.

About 40,000 Americans live and work in the kingdom.

U.S. task force arrives in Riyadh

Meanwhile, a U.S. task force has arrived in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to review security at U.S. military facil-

ities after last month's bombing, a U.S. military official said Tuesday.

The task force headed by retired U.S. army General Wayne Downing arrived in Riyadh late Monday after it spent a week in Khobar interviewing U.S. military personnel who witnessed the June 25 truck bombing, Major Jim Stratford said.

It has looked at ways to improve security but it is too early for it to draft recommendations, Maj. Stratford added. The task force is due to return to the United States next week.

Defence Secretary William Perry has instructed the commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf to draw up plans for relocating troops now based in vulnerable urban areas like Riyadh.



Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy (left) and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat shake hands at the end of their press conference Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Egypt authorities seize Croatian ship for damaging coral reefs

PORT SAID, Egypt (AFP) — Egyptian authorities seized a Croatian ship on Tuesday after it caused nearly one million dollars damage to coral reefs, police sources said.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian refuelling ship sunk in the Suez Canal due to high wind and waves, causing a two square kilometre slick of petroleum products, port sources said.

The Croatian cargo ship struck coral reefs late Monday near the underwater nature reserve of Ras Mohammed at the southern-

most tip of the Sinai Peninsula, 500 kilometres southeast of Cairo, the police sources said.

The ship then tried to flee the scene but was stopped by port police, who forced it to dock at the nearby resort of Sharm Al Sheikh.

The damage caused to the reef values around three million Egyptian pounds (\$882,000), they said, adding that the crew, whose size and nationality was not specified, were arrested and the ship seized by authorities.

The sources did not spec-

ify the destination or departure point of the ship. Meanwhile, the refuelling ship, carrying 1,000 tonnes of "petroleum materials" sunk completely late Monday near the Port of Suez town on the canal's southern mouth, 135 kilometres east of Cairo.

Port authorities managed to save the boat's seven-member crew and equipment was deployed to clean up the resulting spill, which spread over a two-square-kilometre area, the sources said.

Chinese police arrest 3 Iranians suspected of theft

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese police have arrested three Iranians suspected of stealing goods and more than 20,000 yuan (\$2,400) in cash while travelling through several provinces, the Guangming daily said Tuesday. The three, who were arrested in the central province of Hunan, arrived in the farwestern town of Urumqi on May 22, and allegedly stole money in a swing through several Chinese cities from July 1 to 4, the paper said. The Iranian embassy has been informed of their case and the three remain in detention in the Hunan city of Changsha, it added.

Iraq plans food importation under oil deal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi food imports under partial oil sales will amount to about 2.3 million tonnes in six months, according to documents obtained by Reuters on Tuesday.

The documents, part of Iraq's food distribution plan approved by the United Nations last week, show that the Iraqi government has earmarked \$870 million for food imports.

Some \$450 million of the total \$1.32 billion Baghdad will have after the oil sales will go for humanitarian goods like medicines and spare parts for water sanitation systems.

Under the May 20 U.N. deal to allow limited oil sales while economic sanctions over Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait remain in place, Iraq must subtract 30 per cent from the total \$2 billion in oil sales it is allowed to pay victims of

the invasion and to meet certain U.N. costs.

The food imports will include 1.3 million tonnes of wheat, 319,000 tonnes of rice, 128,000 tonnes of cooking oil and 128,000 tonnes of pulses.

Iraq will start buying the food once proceeds from the limited oil sales deal are placed in the U.N. escrow fund, the documents said.

Other substantial imports include 19,000 tonnes of tea and 78,000 tonnes of soaps and detergents.

Under the distribution plan, the monthly flour ration will jump from the current seven kilos (15.4 lb) to nine kilos (19.8 lb), the amount of rice will double to 2.5 kilos (5.5 lb) and sugar to two kilos (4.4 lb) from 0.5 kilos (1.1 lb).

The World Food Programme (WFP) in Baghdad, responsible for distributing food in Iraq's

three northern provinces and observing rationing in the rest of the country, confirmed the figures.

Tun Myat, WFP's country director in Iraq, said that the extra food rations would boost protein intake.

"In certain areas of the country the situation is simply appalling. The people are in pain and suffering," Mr. Myat said.

Mr. Myat said on the basis of his discussions and findings he felt confident that "the Iraqis were committed to make sure the oil deal works."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali last week approved rules governing the distribution of humanitarian supplies in Iraq, but before the Iraqi oil flows to international markets the U.N. sanctions committee will have to adopt rules controlling oil sales and food purchases.

Levy viewed as moderate among hardliners

TEL AVIV (R) — It came as no surprise that David Levy was the first cabinet minister in Israel's five-week-old right-wing government to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

The 57-year-old foreign minister has led the effort to ease Arab concerns over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opposition to trading land for peace and is seen a relative moderate among hardliners.

A week after Mr. Netanyahu formed his Likud-led government in June, Mr. Levy made clear Israeli leaders would continue meeting with the man his party had for years branded a "terrorist."

"The national and state obligation is to speak to the partner. This is the repre-

sentative chosen by the population there," he said.

Few doubted Mr. Levy would be the first member of Mr. Netanyahu's government to shake Mr. Arafat's hand but the extent of his influence in Mr. Netanyahu's government remains to be seen.

"David Levy, regrettably, is not involved at all in shaping Israel's foreign policy," said Labour Parliament Member Yossi Beilin, a key figure in peace talks with the Palestinians under the previous left-centre Israeli government.

"If David Levy shakes his hand... (but) is unable to tell him anything (of substance), this 'meeting' will prove to be complete unnecessary and maybe worse," Mr. Beilin told

Israel's army radio.

The Moroccan-born Levy, foreign minister in a previous Likud government led by Yitzhak Shamir, bolted the party last year after a long rivalry with Mr. Netanyahu but merged his Geshar faction with Likud for a promise he would get the job again.

Last January, Mr. Levy said he supported giving back to Syria some of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in return for peace — a position that contradicts the guidelines of Mr. Netanyahu's administration.

Those guidelines did not prevent Mr. Levy from asserting in June that Israel and "Syria could meet halfway" if both had a genuine interest in peace.

Mr. Levy is credited with

pushing then Prime Minister Shamir to agree in 1991 to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid that brought the Jewish state to the same table with Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Palestinian representatives.

But Mr. Levy, a former construction worker who climbed his way to the top as a union man, has not hesitated to align himself with political hawks to further his career.

Earlier this month he put his job on the line to force Mr. Netanyahu to add Ariel Sharon to his government, a staunch opponent of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation peace moves, in an alliance that analysts said might pose a challenge to Mr. Netanyahu's leadership.

Second hunger striking prisoner dies in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AFP) — A second leftist prisoner on hunger strike died in Bayrampasa prison here early Tuesday, his lawyers said.

Ten other hunger striking prisoners, also in Bayrampasa, were said by the Istanbul Association of Medical Doctors to be in a coma and liable to die at any time.

Altan Berdan Kerimgiller, in prison since 1992, had been suffering from internal bleeding and went into a coma before

he died in Bayrampasa Tuesday morning on the 65th day of his hunger strike.

Kerimgiller, whose trial was still going on, was accused of taking part in the killing of two retired generals and a prosecutor as a leading member of the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party and Front (DHKP/C).

The state security court prosecutor had demanded a death sentence for Kerimgiller, who died at

the age of 28.

The Association of Medical Doctors said the 10 other hunger striking prisoners could die even if the strike ended now.

"Such a long hunger strike very seriously damages the nervous system and the brain. And this may lead to death or lasting and untreatable disorders," Sebnem Korur Fincanci, the association's secretary general, told reporters.

Sources said several other hunger strikers in

other prisons were also believed to be in a serious condition.

Scores of leftist prisoners began the strikes in protest at poor living conditions in May. Hundreds of other prisoners are supporting the extremists by holding rotational hunger strikes.

On Sunday another leftist prisoner, Aygun Ugur, died in Umraniye prison here on the 63rd day of his hunger strike. Ugur, 25, was sentenced to 12 years six months in prison for

involvement in armed attacks and membership to the outlawed Marxist TKP (ML) Turkish Communist Party (Marxist Leninist).

Justice Minister Sevkettin Kazan, a close aide to the new pro-Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, has made no statement on the deaths of hunger strikers since the first loss of life Sunday.

Last week Mr. Kazan said he was working on measures to improve conditions in prisons.

JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:50Olympic Games
19:00News in French
19:20Olympic Games
22:00News in English
22:20Olympic Games
02:15Varieties
02:25Olympic Games

PRAYER TIMES

04:10Fajr
05:40(Sunrise) Duha
12:42Dhuhr
16:23Asr
19:44Maghreb
21:14Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifesh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 834328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

654932. Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to drop with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman20/31
Aqaba25/37
Deserts20/36
Jordan Valley23/37
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 38
Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 46 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi894788
Dr. Salman Dahoubi 776751
Dr. Bassam Karadsheh 759200
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy890230
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu281484
Al Quds pharmacy(---)
ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi989601
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 637777
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661263/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir,775111/26
Army, Marks891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00Damascus (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:55Larnaca (RJ)
10:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:00Paris (RJ)
18:15Istanbul (RJ)
19:00Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:15London, Berlin (RJ)
19:15Rome (RJ)
19:50Madrid (RJ)
00:30Beirut (RJ)
01:10Cairo (RJ)
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights
12:00Sanaa (IY)
12:15Jeddah (SV)
13:00 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
13:15Cairo (MS)
13:40Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30Tunis (TU)
15:00Vienna (OS)
16:20Algiers (AH)
19:00Dubai (EK)
20:40London, Beirut (BA)
21:10Beirut (ME)
22:00Tel Aviv (LY)
22:35Larnaca (CY)
23:20Amsterdam (KL)
23:30Athens (OK)
03:35Antalia (TK)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
11:00Rome (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:40Berlin, London (RJ)
12:10Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45Istanbul (RJ)
20:45Colombo (RJ)
20:45Beirut (RJ)
21:10Riyadh (RJ)
21:10Cairo (RJ)
21:20New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:00Dhahran (add) (RJ)
22:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:45Sanaa (RJ)
04:30Riyadh (RJ)

Other Flights
04:00Amsterdam (KL)
08:45Beirut (ME)
09:15London (BA)
13:00Sanaa (IY)
13:45Jeddah (SV)
14:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
14:15Cairo (MS)
14:30Doha, Muscat (GF)
15:30Tunis (TU)
17:20Sharjah (AH)
20:00Dubai (EK)
23:10Tel Aviv (LY)
23:30Larnaca (CY)
00:20Amsterdam (KL)
04:00Athens (OA)

MARKET PRICES

Uppercase price in Jls per kg.
Apple700/500
Banana600/600
Banana (mukhammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 800/500
Cabbage370/280
Carrot140/80
Cauliflower200/130
Cucumber (large) 140/80
Cucumber (small) 230/140
Eggplant200/120
Garlic650/400
Grapes430/300
Lemon600/400
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 420/280
Mulukiah110/70
Onion (dry)150/80
Okra620/400
Orange400/300
Plum330/250
Pea550/350
Peach670/400
Pear720/500
Pepper (hot)320/200
Pepper (sweet) 300/200
Potato320/220
String Bean500/300
Sweet melon 180/120
Tomato110/70
Water melon110/70

Home Princess progress

AMMAN (PETRA) — Princess Basma (RJ) received at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAFSD) members of the steering committee of the Jordanian Women's Development and Middle Eastern panel of parliamentarians, currently meeting in Amman.

Princess Basma briefed the committee members on the achievement of Jordanian women, women's role in public life, and in decision making in the family and at national levels.

She stressed the need for creating a balanced link between population and development issues and said Jordan and its African friends should share related experiences in these spheres.

She praised the decision to form a national parliament committee on women, development and population issues and called on all parties concerned to

18 Arab airlines to send staff for training in Amman

AMMAN (PETRA) — Eighteen Arab airlines Tuesday said they would send their employees for training at the soon-to-be-established regional training centre. The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) recently decided to make Amman the location for the training centre for Arab and other airlines.

At the close of a two-day meeting of the AACO Training and Development Committee, participants from the 18 airlines also announced the appointment of Meusa Anz, Royal Jordanian (RJ) vice president for training, as the centre's director beginning in September.

AACO Secretary General Abdul Wahab Tuffaha, is expected to sign an agreement with the European Union (EU) today on financing the centre.

According to Mr. Tuffaha, the centre will start operations at a temporary site in October pending the construction of permanent premises.

Mr. Tuffaha said that the AACO centre will start its activities by holding a joint training seminar for Arab airline employees with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The topic of this seminar will be the handling of dangerous materials by airlines.

He also announced that the committee appointed head of Saudia training (Saudi Arabian national air carrier) Hassan Tayeb to be in charge of training at the new Amman regional centre.

During the two days of meetings, the committee members discussed issues such as raising the standard of air transport and ground services by Arab airlines to meet the needs of modern air transportation and to face foreign airline competition.

The members also reviewed the planned agenda for the new training centre.

Also Tuesday, IATA moved its technical staff from London to its new regional office in Amman. IATA resident representative Khaled Mahdi, said that the office will cooperate with the Arab airlines in addition to Iran Air and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

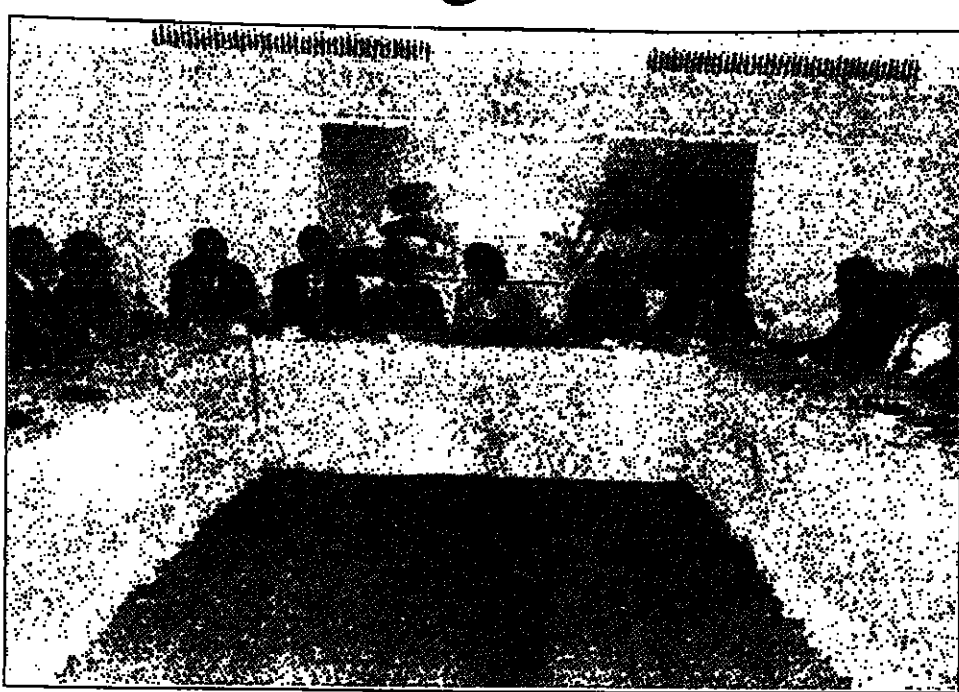
Princess Basma reviews women's progress with visiting officials

AMMAN (PETRA) — HRH Princess Basma Tuesday received at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) members of the steering committee of the African and Middle Eastern panel of parliamentarians, currently meeting in Amman.

Princess Basma briefed the committee members on the achievement of Jordanian women, women's role in public life, and in decision making in the family and at national levels.

She stressed the need for creating a balanced link between population and development issues and said Jordan and its African friends should share related experiences in these spheres.

She praised the decision to form a national parliamentary committee on development and population issues, and called on all parties concerned to



HRH Princess Basma Tuesday receives at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) members of the steering committee of the African and Middle Eastern panel of parliamentarians, currently meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

cooperate with this panel. The meeting was attended by Ministry of Education

Secretary General Izzat Jaradat, members of the board of QAF and the sec-

retary general of the National Committee on Population.

Court to release editor on bail

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An editor of a weekly tabloid who was apprehended Saturday on charges of lack of accuracy in news reporting and of tarnishing the image of the country, is expected to be released today, according to President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Seif Sharif.

Mr. Sharif said the JPA received assurances from Judge Tawfiq Quaisi that the editor of Sawt Al Mara' (the voice of woman), Nasser Qamash, will be released on bail today.

According to government sources, the move against Sawt Al Mara's editor was prompted by a popular outcry that led parliament last week to issue a statement urging the authorities and the media to take measures to put an end to writings that harm national unity and Arab and Islamic values.

His Majesty King Hussein responded to the parliament's call by sending a message to the speaker of the Lower House also adding his voice in criticising some writers who attempt to undermine national unity.

In his July 16 message, the King voiced hope that newspapers live up to the aspiration of the Jordanian people and that they propagate the values and principles of this country.

Mr. Qamash, editor of the two-year-old weekly, was called to the prosecutor general's office Saturday after the Press and Publications Department filed a complaint about an article that was published in the newspaper entitled: "Raghadan Bus Terminal...prostitution, rape and drugs."

The May 29, article charged that the Raghadan Bus Terminal is neglected by the authorities and is becoming a ring for drug exchange, and children acting as con-

nections between prostitutes and customers in return for a commission. The report also mentioned some rape incidents.

Charges pressed against Mr. Qamash by Prosecutor General Jamal Zogby include overlooking objectivity, honesty and accuracy in reporting on news, publishing inaccurate news, and tarnishing the reputation of public facilities in Jordan.

"We are against the arrest of any journalist and we will fight this issue until Mr. Qamash and any other reporter being detained are freed from jails," Mr. Sharif said.

Mr. Qamash was denied bail three times since his apprehension Saturday, director of the newspaper Jamal Muhtaseb said.

On Monday Reporters Sans Frontieres, the Paris-based special interest group which promotes journalists' rights worldwide, appealed to His Majesty King Hussein

to defend press freedoms and protested against the detention of Mr. Qamash.

Meanwhile, Mr. Zogby said Editor of Shiban Weekly Jihad Momani and columnist Ahmad Ouidi Abbadi are expected to appear at the Amman Court of First Instance on charges of undermining national unity, inciting people to commit crimes and fuelling bigotry.

The paper has often published articles containing anti-Palestinian sentiments.

A case was filed by some individuals against Messrs. Momani and Abbadi, Mr. Zogby said without elaborating.

In a recent special session, Lower House deputies called for fostering national unity, and later His Majesty King Hussein sent a letter to parliament supporting this same objective.

According to Mr. Zogby, the court is expected to begin hearing the case in the next seven days.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalid Madadha Tuesday receives copies of the credentials of four newly appointed non-resident ambassadors to Jordan. The envoys are Heikki Latvanen of Finland (top left), Lars Blinckberg of Denmark (top right), Mohammad Korma of Guinea (bottom left) and Oscar Kalvati of Honduras (bottom right) (Petra)

18 Arab airlines to send staff for training in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Eighteen Arab airlines Tuesday said they would send their employees for training at the soon-to-be-established regional training centre. The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) recently decided to make Amman the location for the training centre for Arab and other airlines.

At the close of a two-day meeting of the AACO Training and Development Committee, participants from the 18 airlines represented also announced the appointment of Mousa Anz, Royal Jordanian (RJ) vice president for training, as the centre's director beginning in September.

AACO Secretary General Abdul Wahab Tuffaha, is expected to sign an agreement with the European Union (EU) today on financing the centre.

According to Mr. Tuffaha, the centre will start operations at a temporary site in October pending the construction of permanent premises.

Mr. Tuffaha said that the AACO centre will start its activities by holding a joint training seminar for Arab airline employees with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The topic of this seminar will be the handling of dangerous materials by airlines. He also announced that the committee appointed head of Saudia training (Saudi Arabian national air carrier) Hassan Tayeb to be in charge of training at the new Amman regional centre.

During the two days of meetings, the committee members discussed issues such as raising the standard of air transport and ground services by Arab airlines to meet the needs of modern air transportation and to face foreign airline competition.

The members also reviewed the planned agenda for the new training centre.

Also Tuesday, IATA moved its technical staff from London to its new regional office in Amman.

IATA resident representative Khaled Mahdi, said that the office will cooperate with the Arab airlines in addition to Iran Air and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

Government talks to business, community leaders about instituting 2-day weekend

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is once again looking at the feasibility of introducing a two-day weekend and has begun discussions with business and community leaders, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb said Tuesday.

Mr. Abul Ragheb told the Jordan Times that "this is just an idea that is being floated to the private sector for study."

"The basic reason (for a two-day weekend) is to give government employees more time for rest and family visits, especially to families living in remote regions. It is also a way of encouraging domestic tourism and cutting down on public spending," according to Mr. Abul Ragheb.

He said that parallel to the



Ali Abul Ragheb

concept of a longer weekend, the government is considering increasing the number of hours in the workday by one hour.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also said that the day they are looking to add to the official Friday day-off are either Thursday or Saturday.

According to the minister, the impact of a second official day-off on businesses

and banks does not have to be a problem.

"Closing down government offices for two days does not necessarily mean that banks and industrial companies have to close for two days. In some countries banks and industries close for one day, while government departments close for two days, as is the case in the United States."

The Executive Council of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce which met earlier this week discussed the government's two-day weekend concept.

The council's chairman said he and his colleagues would consult with the various chambers of commerce in the governorates to sound out their views on the proposal and its impact on various sectors, whether negative or positive.

Blacksmith killed in attic collapse

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One person was killed and another seriously injured Monday when an attic collapsed and buried them under rubble.

The accident occurred in a blacksmith shop near Sahab, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials.

A CDD official said the roof collapsed because it stored more than 600 iron pipes weighing over three tonnes.

"The bridges holding the attic were fragile because they were only soldered and not supported by cement," the CDD official told the Jordan Times.

Two company employees were working in the shop when the attic collapsed at

3:15 p.m. It took CDD rescue teams 30 minutes to pull the victims from under the rubble, said the official.

The official identified the deceased as Bader Habib, 30, who suffered internal bleeding and a smashed skull.

The other employee, Fahed Hassounah, 27, suffered from fractures and bruises and is listed in fair condition at Al Bashir Hospital. A third employee, Atef Mohammed, witnessed the accident and went into shock, the CDD said. He is also being treated at Al Bashir Hospital.

Police search for clues in Naour deaths

Meanwhile, authorities Tuesday continued their

investigations into the shooting deaths of three family members found in their Naour home Sunday, official sources said.

The victims were a man, his wife and mother. Prosecutor General Zuhair Atiat, the investigator on the case, pointed to "a possible murder/suicide."

"We have not questioned any of the family members yet, but based on evidence in the crime scene, it is most probably a murder/suicide," Mr. Atiat told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Bebars Sadiq, 40, his 70-year-old mother, and his wife, Duha Seifeddin, 33.

A close relative of the victims said that Mr. Sadiq

was very concerned about his financial troubles and was depressed. The relative said he believed that Mr. Sadiq may have taken his own life.

Mr. Atiat said that preliminary investigations indicate that Mr. Sadiq may have gone for his gun on the second floor, run into his mother and shot her in the neck.

He then probably went to his room, locked the door, shot his wife, and then shot himself, Mr. Atiat added.

The prosecutor said Mr. Sadiq had resigned from his job a day before the incident. He said police found JD 189 on him.

According to Mr. Atiat, authorities will start questioning family members over next few days.

Britain says peace process must be an EU priority

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has said that the Middle East peace process must be a priority for the European Union (EU) as it has a large stake in the security and stability of this important region.

Speaking at a meeting of the EU General Affairs Council in Brussels last week, Mr. Rifkind said the

Declaration agreed to by the G-7 at a pre-summit meeting in late June, makes clear the EU's interest in the continuation and success of the peace process.

He said the next step must

be the implementation of the agreements decided upon in Oslo and Florence, which first means redeployment of Israeli troops from Hebron.

"But recognising Israel's vital priority for security and the recent governmental change, the country must be given time to formulate its policies," Mr. Rifkind added.

According to his statement, which was released yesterday by the British embassy in Amman, the second important step to concentrate on will be the relaxation of the closures of the West Bank and Gaza and the resumption of high level contacts between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The EU, the foreign secretary affirmed, was assisting the Palestinians with counter-terrorism to reach "true and lasting security," which he said "lies in an equitable settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, based on land for peace where the rights of all have been concerned."

The European Union will play a major role in supporting the Middle East peace process and will not allow it "to slip between the fingers of the world," Mr. Rifkind stressed.

According to the Florence Declaration, the European Union will continue to maintain its economic support for the Palestinians.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

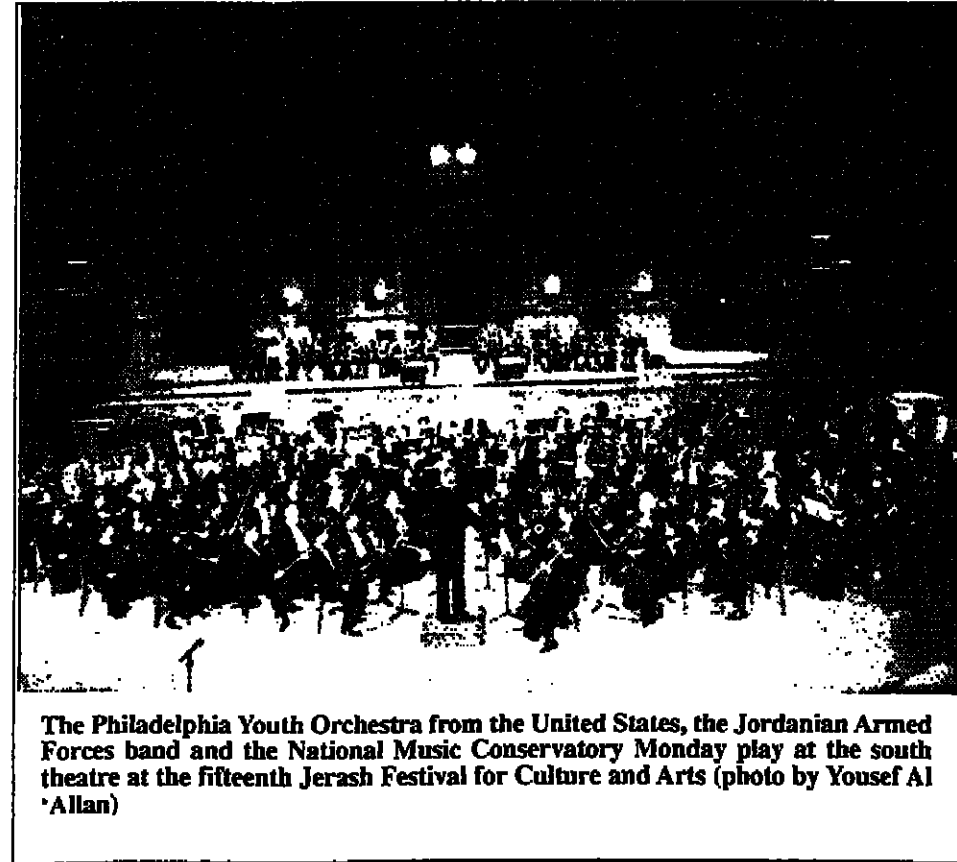
- * Concert the Egyptian singer Mustafa. Qamar, at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- * Concert by Iraqi band of Hussein Al A'hami at Artimes Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- * Performance by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band, the Nile Band of Popular Art, Al Hamaounah Band, the Aqaba Youth Centre, the Shobak Youth Centre, and Sharaf Band at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.
- * Children's play "Once Upon A Time" (Arabic) at Gracia Theatre at 7:30 p.m.
- * Concert by Spanish guitarist Miguel Angel Cortes at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.
- * Lecture entitled "Horizons of Development of Modern Arab Poetry" by Dr. Mohammad Banks of Morocco and another lecture entitled "Studies in the Poetry of Mahmoud Darwish" by Dr. Hassan Al Khatib and Subhi Hadidi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman (5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.).

EXHIBITIONS

- * "Pioneers of the Fifties" - Works by Iraqi artists Ismail Sheikhly, Khalid Qasab, Suzanne Sheikhly, and Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Union Effatima (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 1.
- * "Muslims in Britain" exhibition at the British Council, until July 24.
- * Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Rashid Diab entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Funnus, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.
- * Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 6991412), until July 25.

WORLDNET DIALOGUE

- * Worldnet Television Dialogue via satellite on "Freedom of the Press" at the American Cultural Center auditorium, Abdoun, at 2:30 p.m.



The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra from the United States, the Jordanian Armed Forces band and the National Music Conservatory Monday play at the south theatre at the fifteenth Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts (photo by Yusef Al Allan)

Sri Lankan army battle Tigers in bid to win back garrison

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday battled Sri Lankan army reinforcements trying to recapture an army garrison, as a terrified survivor said the camp had been destroyed by "human waves" of rebels.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said its fighters had pinned down the soldiers, who were awaiting further reinforcements to relieve the rebels' mounting pressure in the island's embattled north-east.

But the government reported a further but slow advance towards the camp, located at Mullaitivu, some 320 kilometres from here.

A Defence Ministry statement said two landing craft had established a beachhead south of Mullaitivu after the air force had destroyed more than 100 LTTE boats.

"Troops... continue to advance while encountering heavy enemy resistance," the statement added.

"Since the troops operate in an area covered with jungle, a considerable time is being spent to mop up pockets of enemy resistance."

The LTTE says it has killed 1,208 soldiers and officers for the loss of 241 guerrillas since it launched the assault on the coastal garrison on July 18.

The government has given no up-to-date toll but earlier admitted to losing at least 300 soldiers while killing 400 guerrillas. The military said more than 100 troops were wounded.

"Heavy mortar fire from the LTTE fighters has pinned down the troop reinforcements from making any headway," a LTTE statement from London said.

"The troops are digging in and awaiting further reinforcements," it said.

Sri Lankan Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte pledged Sunday to recapture the camp, and said the LTTE was resisting the army advance with barrages of mortars and shells.

Military sources said the garrison camp was on fire. In the first witness account of the fighting, a soldier who survived the Mullaitivu massacre by climbing up a tree said Tuesday that the garrison had been overrun by "human waves."

W.G. Dammika, 19, said from his hospital bed in the northwestern town of Anur-

dhapura that hundreds of young male and female guerrillas took part in the pre-dawn offensive, the biggest by the LTTE to date.

"I have never seen such an attack," he said. "We fought as good as we can, but the Tigers pounded our camp with mortars. They literally rained mortars and shells non-stop."

"When I ran out of ammunition, I climbed a coconut tree with two other soldiers and remained there for a full 24 hours. The mortar firing went on and on... The Tigers poured in like human waves. There was no stopping them."

"Many soldiers who were wounded bled to death," the survivor said. "The camp was fully destroyed (by the LTTE). There is nothing left in the camp."

He later fled towards the Mullaitivu lagoon when the Tigers in the area switched location. He then took to the dense forests, where he dodged bombings by the Sri Lankan Air Force, and was ultimately rescued by army reinforcements.

The LTTE statement said more than 50,000 Tamils living close to the Mullaitivu Camp had taken refuge

in jungles following "indiscriminate shelling" by the air force.

The fighting came as security forces went on a maximum security "red alert" in Colombo to prevent trouble on a flashpoint anniversary.

Police and soldiers with rifles were on guard near key government installations, and carried out random checks of vehicles in a bid to detect Tamil Tigers who have often struck in the city.

A small band of LTTE rebels ambushed an army patrol in the island's north on July 23, 1983, killing 13 soldiers.

It was the biggest slaughter of troops, drawn mainly from the Sinhalese majority community, by Tamil guerrillas until then. It sparked off reprisals in Colombo by Sinhalese mobs which left some 600 people dead.

The anti-Tamil carnage has since come to known as "black July." An LTTE radio broadcast Tuesday said the Mullaitivu raid was to commemorate the anniversary.

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi Tuesday urged foreign tourists and investors to boycott Burma.

"We would like people to keep away during visit Myanmar year as a symbol of solidarity with the movement for democracy in Burma," she told Singapore-based satellite network Asia Business News (ABN).

Myanmar is the name given to Burma by the junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). "Visit Myanmar Year" is a tourism promotion campaign launched by the SLORC, starting in November.

The interview coincided with the ongoing annual meeting in Jakarta of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which gave the Burmese junta an added measure of legitimacy by granting it observer status at the weekend.

The SLORC, which seized power in 1988 and refuses to honour the results of 1990 general elections won massively by the opposition, has embarked on a hotel-building spree in anticipation of a surge in tourist arrivals.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who was freed from six years of house arrest one year ago, told ABN that "we would like everybody who loves democracy and human rights to keep away from Burma to demonstrate the fact that they do not want to support a regime that practises injustice and oppression."

"I don't think any tourist has ever been invited to examine the prisons of Burma or to study forced labour camps or to see what it is like when people are moved from their homes of many, many years," she said.

She also urged foreign investors to shun Burma, calling in particular for French oil giant Total to sever its ties with the junta. Total is engaged in a major energy project in Burma.

"We do not think now is the time for any foreign company to invest in Burma because the investments do not benefit the public at large. These investments only benefit a privileged few," she said.

Earlier this month, European brewers Heineken and Carlsberg scrapped plans to invest in Burma amid pressure from human rights groups in their home countries to pull out of the projects.

Despite continued Western pressure, Burma is expected to be eventually admitted as a full ASEAN member in a few years. ASEAN members say this policy of constructive engagement, involving close diplomatic contact and growing economic ties, would work better than sanctions to bring Burma into the international mainstream.

ASEAN now includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

In Jakarta, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Tuesday urged South East Asian nations to use their influence on the military regime in Burma, warning that Rangoon's repression of human rights threatened regional stability.

In a speech at the Asian Regional Forum of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting here, Mr. Christopher called on the countries to "consider the impact of current conditions in Burma on the region."

He also called on them to obtain "concrete results" from the military junta, known as the State Law and Order



Sri Lankan policemen check identification of passengers of a bus entering the capital Colombo, where security has been stepped up Tuesday. Sri Lanka is bracing for rebel attacks to mark the 13th anniversary of the start of a bloody ethnic war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and mainly Sinhalese government troops (Reuters photo)

Suu Kyi urges tourists and investors to boycott Burma

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi Tuesday urged foreign tourists and investors to boycott Burma.

"We would like people to keep away during visit Myanmar year as a symbol of solidarity with the movement for democracy in Burma," she told Singapore-based satellite network Asia Business News (ABN).

Myanmar is the name given to Burma by the junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). "Visit Myanmar Year" is a tourism promotion campaign launched by the SLORC, starting in November.

The interview coincided with the ongoing annual meeting in Jakarta of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which gave the Burmese junta an added measure of legitimacy by granting it observer status at the weekend.

The SLORC, which seized power in 1988 and refuses to honour the results of 1990 general elections won massively by the opposition, has embarked on a hotel-building spree in anticipation of a surge in tourist arrivals.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who was freed from six years of house arrest one year ago, told ABN that "we would like everybody who loves democracy and human rights to keep away from Burma to demonstrate the fact that they do not want to support a regime that practises injustice and oppression."

"I don't think any tourist has ever been invited to examine the prisons of Burma or to study forced labour camps or to see what it is like when people are moved from their homes of many, many years," she said.

She also urged foreign investors to shun Burma, calling in particular for French oil giant Total to sever its ties with the junta. Total is engaged in a major energy project in Burma.

"We do not think now is the time for any foreign company to invest in Burma because the investments do not benefit the public at large. These investments only benefit a privileged few," she said.

Earlier this month, European brewers Heineken and Carlsberg scrapped plans to invest in Burma amid pressure from human rights groups in their home countries to pull out of the projects.

Despite continued Western pressure, Burma is expected to be eventually admitted as a full ASEAN member in a few years. ASEAN members say this policy of constructive engagement, involving close diplomatic contact and growing economic ties, would work better than sanctions to bring Burma into the international mainstream.

ASEAN now includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

In Jakarta, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Tuesday urged South East Asian nations to use their influence on the military regime in Burma, warning that Rangoon's repression of human rights threatened regional stability.

In a speech at the Asian Regional Forum of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting here, Mr. Christopher called on the countries to "consider the impact of current conditions in Burma on the region."

He also called on them to obtain "concrete results" from the military junta, known as the State Law and Order

Restoration Council (SLORC).

"The SLORC's refusal to heed the desire of a majority of the Burmese people for a transition to democratic rule and its increased harassment of the democratic opposition... raises the chance of instability, bloodshed and migration within Burma and across its borders," he said.

"The steady deterioration of the rule of law has increased the threat that Burma's burgeoning drug trade poses to citizens from Bangkok to Berlin, Shanghai to San Francisco," he added.

He also referred to the envoys sent by Washington to the region to discuss the Burmese situation with South East Asian nations who support a policy of "constructive engagement" with their neighbour.

The policy is in opposition to a stonger stand advocated by the United States and the European Union, but so far Washington has been unable to convince ASEAN to change its position.

In fact, ASEAN's members last weekend warmly welcomed Burma's accession to observer status — the first step towards full membership — and some of their leaders have been prickly towards what they consider as Western "interference" in national affairs.

This closer cooperation between ASEAN and Burma "make it especially important that the process of reconciliation move forward, not backward" between the junta and the opposition, lead by Ms. Suu Kyi, Mr. Christopher said.

During a dinner Monday night, Mr. Christopher told his counterparts in ASEAN that the lack of democratic progress in Burma could lead the U.S. Congress to force President Bill Clinton to impose economic sanctions against Burma.

But the U.S. government would prefer not to tie its hands with a law and would like to see Burma's neighbours take a stronger stand.

"We want to maintain a certain flexibility," said a senior U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. He noted the U.S. did not have many more ways to pressure Burma, having already stopped bilateral aid and imposed an embargo on arms sales.

The official said Washington was not seeking to coerce ASEAN members.

"We don't expect them to change their public postures but we will continue to encourage them to weigh in on the SLORC to exercise restraint and release prisoners... We will convey the mood in Washington," the source said.

Mr. Christopher's speech to the forum, which brings together 21 nations to discuss regional security issues, also touched on relations between China and Taiwan. He said the two countries should "continue taking steps to reduce recent tensions in the Taiwan Strait, including a resumption of cross-strait dialogue."

Mr. Christopher also said "we continue to urge North Korea to respond positively" to a proposal for four-party talks among Pyongyang, Seoul, Washington and Beijing on peace on the Korean peninsula.

He called on ASEAN to increase contributions to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation, which was set up to provide North Korea with new nuclear power plants in exchange for a freeze on Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

U.S. threatens probe if U.N. funds are used for Ghali reelection

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United States Monday threatened to investigate any use of U.N. personnel or funds directed towards the reelection of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

James Rubin, the spokesman for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, told reporters that Washington's opposition to a second five-year term for Dr. Ghali was "irreversible."

Moreover, he said, "we had concerns that U.N.

employees and resources were going to be expended in an effort to obtain or pursue the reelection of the current secretary-general."

He said "that would be inappropriate, and if that were to happen, we would want to look into the appropriateness of any officials at the U.N. or resources going into that purpose."

The United Nations is currently in the throes of a financial crisis, and is owed \$3.1 billion by member states. Roughly half is owed by Washington which has

been withholding funds until wide-ranging reforms are implemented.

On June 19, Dr. Ghali announced that he would run for a second term, anticipating publication of a New York Times article announcing that Washington had decided to oppose his candidacy.

Since then, the United States has made it clear that it would use its security council veto to block Dr. Ghali. Dr. Ghali's mandate ends on Dec. 31.

Schiffer: Reported breakup with Copperfield just an illusion

BONN (AFP) — German supermodel Claudia Schiffer Tuesday denied press reports of a breakup between her and fiancé David Copperfield saying that the two were still an item. "There is absolutely no truth to all this," Schiffer told the popular German daily Bild, reacting to a press report in the British magazine Here!.

"We are together and we see each other much more often than people think," she said. "Who could care less that we travel half around the world by plane to see each other for two days. We just want to live our life away from our daily work."

The British magazine Monday had quoted a senior Chanel source as saying that the 25-year-old German beauty and the American magician, 39, had split up. The two first met in 1994 during a David Copperfield show in Berlin and became engaged soon after.

3 held for pirating video of Japanese pop star

TOKYO (AFP) — Police have arrested three people suspected of illegally taping a concert by Japanese teen idol Takuya Kimura and selling copies of the video through mail order, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

The 23-year-old male student and two 25-year-old women arrested near Tokyo Monday generated estimated sales of 80 million yen (\$740,000) through pirated video tapes of Kimura and other Japanese pop stars, he said.

Police seized 1,400 copies of video recordings of a concert by Kimura in Tokyo almost two years ago. The tapes were distributed to mail-order customers across Japan at a price of 6,000 yen each, the spokesman said.

The arrests came only a week after Japanese cosmetics giant Kanebo Ltd. launched the second stage of a highly-successful advertising campaign featuring the 23-year-old male heart-throb promoting a new type of lipstick.

Widely known as Kimutaku, a diminutive combining both his family and given names, Kimura is a member of pop group Smap and is currently considered the hottest young male property in the Japanese entertainment world.

A television drama featuring the 23-year-old star won record ratings for Fuji Television Network Inc. when it premiered earlier this year.

Man who confessed to murder of British girl arrested

RENNES, France (AFP) — French Gendarmes investigating the rape and murder of a 13-year-old British girl on a school trip in Brittany have arrested a man who confessed to the crime, the investigating magistrate said Tuesday.

The man, aged around 40 and of no fixed address, was picked up Saturday near Sourdeval in north-west France and was placed under arrest in Saint-Malo after he confessed to the rape and murder of Caroline Dickinson in a youth hostel in the village of Pleine-Fougères.

magistrate Gerard Zaig said. "Some tests are underway following samples taken from the victim's body and on the scene of the crime," Mr. Zaig said in a statement.

"The results of these tests should confirm the confessions of the defendant." Judicial officials had earlier said that a composite portrait of the man, who has a record of sexual abuse, had been shown Monday to inhabitants of Pleine-Fougères.

A source close to the youth hostel said a reconstruction of the crime had been carried out in the building Monday in the suspect's presence. The girl was with a group of 40 children from a college in England.

Flash flood threatens Dhaka

DHAKA (AFP) — Flash floods which have gripped half of Bangladesh and affected 2.5 million people threaten the capital, Dhaka, officials said Tuesday.

The floods are also claiming more areas of the country, though the situation in the worst-hit northern districts is improving as waters begin receding around major rivers, they said.

Rivers crossing central and southern districts registered a dramatic rise in water levels as gushing flood waters emptied into the Bay of Bengal, they said.

They added that the overall situation in 33 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts was "either static or improving."

"With the improvement of flood situation in the northern districts, air-dropping of relief materials will be stopped from today

(Tuesday), but aid operations would continue in the affected areas," Relief Ministry official Sham-sudin Ahmad said.

Flood Information Centre officials said low-lying areas of central Dhaka and suburban areas had been inundated, threatening flood protection embankments as water levels rose in the Major Jamuna and Buriganga rivers.

Army and paramilitary

troops are working around the clock alongside civilian agencies to help the flood-hit population, officials said.

The floods, the second since early June, have left nine people dead and more than 2.5 million people affected, a Relief Ministry spokesman said.

However, the unofficial toll rose to 39 in more than two months of flooding.



A woman on a raft, made with banana trees lashed together, tries to reach higher ground as floods sweep areas near Bangladesh's capital of Dhaka, inundated her rickety home Tuesday (Reuters photo)



Mother, sister and relatives wail over the body of a young boy drowned after he slipped from the rooftop where they moved after floods submerged their house in the Dhaka suburbs. The floods have killed nearly 60 people, mostly in the northern districts (Reuters photo)



A survivor of the July 20 explosion in Moscow, Russia, is seen in a hospital bed. (Reuters photo)

Chechen Moscow

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Mr. Yan... (text partially obscured)

Schiffer: Reports
breakup with
Copperfield being
an illusion



A survivor of the July 20 massacre by Hutu rebels in the Bugendana displacement camp walks through the bodies buried. Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army accelerated the expulsion of Rwandan Hutu refugees Monday (Reuters photo)

Burundi expels thousands more Rwandan Hutu refugees

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi expelled thousands more Rwandan Hutu refugees overnight, stepping up its army-led operation to force them home, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

Rwandan government officials said the exercise, first started Friday, would continue despite protests from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UNHCR in Rwanda, told Reuters by telephone that between 6,000 and 7,000 more refugees were expected Tuesday. A total of 10,900 have arrived in Rwanda since Friday.

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army, which accuses the refugees of abetting Hutu rebels in Burundi, began expulsions from Kibizi Camp.

Mr. Stromberg said the army was set to move into another camp at Ruvumu Tuesday and all indications showed expulsions would also be conducted from the Magara Camp — the biggest with 41,000 refugees.

"So far there has been no let-up. All indications are that they (Burundians) will move into other camps and continue with the exercise," he said.

"The operation continued into the early hours of Tuesday morning and we expect between 6,000 and 7,000 more refugees today," he added.

Before the operation began there were about 85,000 Rwandan Hutus in camps in northern Burundi.

Mr. Stromberg said a third Rwandan refugee died of suffocation late Monday. Two others had died earlier after the Burundi army crammed them in container trucks and forced them back to their homeland.

Many of them took part in the 1994 slaughter of up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda. They fled fearing reprisals by the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan army which took power after the genocide.

The army accelerated its expulsion of the refugees as Burundi began a week of mourning for the 300 latest victims of ethnic massacres.

Burundi's divided government honoured the latest victims of the ethnic civil war in a mass funeral Tuesday at Bugendana in the centre of the country.

More than 900 Tutsis were massacred last Saturday in Bugendana Camp for internally displaced people. The army and Tutsi politicians blamed Hutu rebels and the government declared a week of national mourning.

At the United Nations, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, citing the weekend massacre, urged the Security Council Monday to take immediate action to prevent another catastrophe in central Africa and to press ahead with plans for a multinational force.

His urgent letter to Council President Alain Delamont of France reflected the long-standing fears of a repeat in Burundi of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The Burundi army accused Hutus of helping Hutu rebels in the weekend



Burundian soldiers walk past a line of bodies of some of those killed in an attack on a displacement camp by Hutu rebels which left some 330 mostly Tutsi civilians dead. American and African diplomats are trying to get approval for a military intervention force which would try to avert full-scale genocide in this war-torn Central African nation (Reuters photo)

massacre as the government appealed on national radio for people not to seek revenge.

The government has accused Hutu rebels of the attack, but the commander of the military region of Gitega, Lieutenant Colonel Anicet Mahigombeye, told AFP Monday that "only around 100" of the 1,000 to 1,500 attackers were Hutu extremists.

The military administrator at the Bugendana Camp, Captain Renovat Nshimirimana, put the number of assailants at more than 2,000, half of them rebels.

Hutu rebels unleashed the wave of violence which engulfed the country after the assassination of the country's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, in October 1993.

The army, predominantly from the Tutsi minority, has its power base in the capital, while the hilly countryside is run by local chiefs from the Hutu majority.

"Neighbours of the camp (Hutus) took part (in the attack). Among them, there were local chiefs. There was total complicity. They were like mad dogs," Col. Mahigombeye said.

"They came from a radius of 10 kilometres," he said, drawing a circle in red felt tip round four or five local places.

Asked why the army had not taken in these "neighbours" for questioning, he replied that their first priority had been "to calm things down, round up the survivors and evacuate the wounded."

"An investigation will take place later," he added laconically.

He said it was not safe to visit the neighbouring villages. It was therefore not possible for journalists to interview suspects.

The accounts of survivors are always

in Kirundi, the national language. They are translated into French in the presence of the military.

Hutu rebels have admitted attacking a military position at Bugendana, but claim that it was the army which massacred the Tutsi refugees in the guise of retaliation.

According to the military, the refugee camps are several kilometres from Bugendana itself.

One soldier was killed and two injured during the attack, according to the army. There were only 18 soldiers in charge of camp security.

Col. Mahigombeye, who has been military commander of Gitega for two years, acknowledged that the situation there had deteriorated.

According to him, the rebels have been following a three-point strategy. Initially the rebels stir up discontent among people against the authorities and the army.

Then they begin recruiting young people, who are trained in camps in the Kibira National Park, in a mountain chain reaching more than 2,000 metres altitude, northeast of the capital Bujumbura.

The third phase is attacking mind targets. "People start acting in collusion. They no longer denounce the assailants. The final stage is the extermination (of Tutsis), as it happened at Bugendana."

He does not believe the rebels are better armed or organised than before. "But the extra that they do have is indoctrination," he said. He believes around 10 per cent of the population is collaborating with the rebels.

"The army can do its job. But that can cause trouble if it does it alone. The politicians should also do their job," he said, calling for a close cooperation between the army and the country's political leaders.

Chechen rebels criticise Moscow but want talks

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev accused the Kremlin Tuesday of breaking peace agreements and called on the international community to investigate.

A statement by Mr. Yandarbiyev, handed to reporters in the Chechen capital, reaffirmed his commitment to resolving the bloody conflict through talks but made clear he was not ready to abandon the goal of Chechnya's independence from Russia.

"Chechnya's independence is a manifestation of the will of its people and it will protect it with the help of Allah, whatever the deprivation and losses," the statement said.

Mr. Yandarbiyev accused Russia of breaking a truce which he agreed on May 27 with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, and a further accord signed on June 10.

The agreements provided for a ceasefire, removal of Russian checkpoints, an exchange of prisoners and the gradual withdrawal of Moscow's forces in exchange for the rebels' disarmament. None of the agreements has been carried out fully.

The ceasefire is formally still in force but has been widely violated since Russian forces, accusing the rebels of breaking it, launched military operations in several parts of the north Caucasus territory, in which civilians have been killed.

Mr. Yandarbiyev called on the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has mediated in peace talks, to set up a commission to investigate who is responsible for the renewed violence.

It also reiterated calls for U.N. peacekeepers to be brought into the region "to protect civilians against Russia's state terrorism." Moscow has rejected similar demands in the past because it considers the conflict an internal Russian affair.

Russian news agencies said Russian aviation was unable to attack the rebels for the second day in a row Tuesday because of bad weather. But artillery and tanks continued to pound rebel positions in the southern Shatoi region.

Interfax News Agency said General Anatoly Kvashnin, the commander

of the North Caucasus Military District, had arrived in the Chechen capital Grozny.

He was expected to meet the top Chechen military commander, Aslan Maskhadov, to try and revive talks.

Meanwhile a senior Russian military official Tuesday denied a claim by Chechen separatists that Russian forces had used chemical weapons in Chechnya.

General Vladimir Orlov, deputy commander of the Russian army's Biological and Chemical Weapons Forces, told ITAR-TASS news agency that the allegation was "disinformation."

On Monday Chechen separatist spokesman Movladi Udogov accused Russian forces of firing artillery shells filled with chemicals which killed three rebel fighters.

Gen. Orlov said Russian forces had "never, nor will they ever, use chemical weapons in Chechnya."

The separatists have previously accused Russian forces of using chemical weapons since the conflict erupted in December 1994, but Moscow has always rejected the allegations.

Filipino army defends Muslim peace deal

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — The Philippines military Tuesday strongly defended a planned peace agreement with the country's main Muslim rebel group, saying the deal would marginalise an extremist faction blamed for terrorism and kidnappings.

Lieutenant Colonel Lino Lapoid, a regional civil relations commander, said he expected Abdurajak Janjalani, leader of the Islamic radical faction Abu Sayyaf, to consider other options after the Muslim guerrilla leader 'Nir' Misuari decided to participate in elections.

Mr. Misuari, chairman of the main Muslim insurgent group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), has been persuaded by President Fidel Ramos to run as the ruling coalition's candidate for governor of a four-province Muslim autonomous region in the south on Sept. 9.

His decision effectively signalled a shift from the MNLF's 24-year armed struggle to participation in the electoral process.

It is seen as a step towards the signing of a final peace accord later this year. "He (Janjalani) may be pondering deep inside as to what side he will take by now," Col. Lapoid told reporters here.

He said there have been "lesser sightings" of Abu Sayyaf gunmen in their strongholds in the southern islands of Sulu and Basilan in recent weeks after Mr. Misuari's announcement of his candidacy.

The Abu Sayyaf, whose members are young radical Muslims, has been blamed for a series of anti-Christian bomb attacks and kidnappings in the south, including a raid on the town of Ipil in April 1995 in which 53 persons were killed.

They have publicly said they are fighting for a separate Islamic state in the southern island of Mindanao, home of this largely Roman Catholic nation's Muslim minority.

Military officials have said that the bomb attacks were aimed at sabotaging peace talks between the government and the MNLF aimed at setting up a wider Muslim autonomous region.

Manila and the MNLF last month reached an interim agreement to set up a Muslim-dominated regional council to oversee development projects in 14 southern provinces.

The council is intended to pave the way for the setting up of the larger Muslim autonomous region within the next three years.



A new group of Russian professional soldiers, or contractniki, walks in the Russian military base of Khankala near the Chechen capital Grozny Monday after arriving from Russia's Far East, nine time zones away. Local citizens accuse contractniki of most atrocities in the region where a bloody conflict with Moscow rages for 19 months and in which more than 30,000 people have been killed (Reuters photo)

No drastic reshuffle planned — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin said Tuesday there would be no drastic changes in the coming government reshuffle but the number of ministries and other federal bodies would be reduced, Interfax News Agency reported.

"There will be changes in the new government, but they will not be drastic," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters after talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at Barvikha, a rest home just outside Moscow, where he is recovering from his gruelling reelection campaign.

The talks covered the composition and structure of the future government.

Mr. Yeltsin, who was elected president for a new four-year term on July 3, has already confirmed Mr. Chernomyrdin in his post and instructed him to form a new cabinet.

He has also instructed the new national security supremo Alexander Lebed, General Igor Rodionov, as defence minister.

Liberal economist and former First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, who masterminded Mr. Yeltsin's reelection campaign, was given the powerful twin posts of top advisor to Mr. Yeltsin and head of the presidential staff.

Mr. Yeltsin said the huge military-industrial complex would not be represented by one portfolio but would come under the aegis of a deputy prime minister in charge of industrial policy.

He declined to name future ministers, saying the cabinet list would not be published until the prime minister got a vote of confidence from the State Duma, the lower house of parliament.

The vote is due to take place after Mr. Yeltsin's Aug. 9 swearing-in.

Under Russia's presidential constitution, the Duma does not vote on the composition of the entire government.

Japan school girl dies from food poisoning

TOKYO (R) — A 10-year-old school girl who was in critical condition from acute food poisoning that has affected thousands in Sakai, western Japan, died Tuesday evening, Japanese media reported.

The girl had been one of three children on life support after falling victim to a food poison epidemic caused by the O-157 colon bacteria which has affected more than 6,200 children in Sakai, a suburb of Osaka in western Japan.

Nearly 480 people, mainly schoolchildren, are still in hospital.

The total number of deaths from the germ this year is now seven.

Medical authorities announced Tuesday two more deaths in a severe outbreak of food poisoning as the rate of new infections in the suburbs of Osaka resumed rising after a short-lived decline.

The two victims, a 56-year-old factory worker and an 85-year-old woman, died of kidney failure related to an advanced stage of the O-157 colon bacillus infection known as hemolytic uremic syndrome, officials said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto ordered universities and other institutions to help identify routes of the infection which has mainly affected primary school children and is believed to be linked to school lunches.

"It is a very worrisome situation," Mr. Hashimoto was quoted as telling Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiichiro Kajiyama Tuesday morning.

"I would like once again to ask for strong support from prefectures and municipalities."

The outbreak of food poisoning has been concentrated in Sakai, an industrial suburb of Osaka, where 6,409 cases of O-157 infection since July 13 had been reported as of Tuesday.

That tally included 76 new cases recorded Tuesday, up from 45 new cases Monday, the officials said.

Sakai officials said 29 victims remained in critical condition.

"The man died after a short period of time. From a clinical point of view, it was extremely rare," the head physician at the Kyoto hospital where the man was being treated told Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

Although he died Sunday night, officials were unable to confirm that the man's death was linked to the colon bacillus until Tuesday morning. The man, who was hospitalised after complaining of fever and diarrhoea, worked at a Kyoto factory where two fellow workers contracted the same bacterial infection.

China floods affect industry; weather clears

BEIJING (R) — Chinese troops are building up embankments and factories slowing production to send workers to plug leaks in dykes holding back the mighty Yangtze River from bursting its banks after heavy rains, officials said Tuesday.

In central Hubei province, troops and police mounting a round-the-clock watch on embankments holding in the rain-swollen Yangtze River were joined by workers who rushed to plug leaks as the pressure of the water intensified, local officials said.

In central Hunan province, where 195 people have died in floods in the last few days, officials said torrential rains had stopped. The water level in China's largest freshwater lake, the Dongting, was falling from a historic high but remained above the danger level.

"The water level is falling but some places have been swamped by the floods for a long time and this has increased the risk of landslides and collapses so troops are on a round-the-clock alert," a provincial government official said.

"We don't know how long it will take before the Dongting Lake falls back to its previous normal level," he said.

A late night meeting of provincial and flood control officials had decided to move work from fighting the floods to reconstruction amid forecasts that more

storms appeared unlikely, he said.

"Now we need help and are collecting donations from across the province to help with rebuilding," he said.

He estimated agricultural and rural losses in Hunan alone at 20 billion yuan (\$2.4 billion) but said damage to industry in urban areas was limited since most flooding had been in the countryside.

However, 1.23 million hectares (3.0 million acres) of arable land had been damaged with crops destroyed on 409,000 hectares (1.0 million acres), he said.

Losses to rice were limited because it was still early in the main late-growing season, he said.

Floods across a belt of central and southern provinces have killed at least 864 people in China this year and left millions homeless or stranded.

Total economic losses from the floods in Hunan, Hubei, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Anhui, Guizhou, Guangxi and Jiangsu provinces were estimated at about 63.73 billion yuan (\$7.68 billion).

About eight million soldiers, police, students of military academies and civilians had been fighting the floods along the Yangtze River in central Hunan and Hubei provinces for days, rescuing thousands of stranded victims and scrambling to prevent rivers from bursting their banks.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1972.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Blinking in collective interest

WHEN THE government of Abdul Karim Kabariti was formed in February, the contention of many was that the new prime minister would have one main task, to work towards change in Iraq and ensure a friendly post-Saddam regime.

Little was said then, even within the most informed circles, about the main task that the Kabariti government would have to be entrusted with internally, prominently among which is the lifting, or as the government likes to put it, the rechanneling of bread subsidies.

While the prime minister has done a great deal for and spent much time on such matters as the Middle East peace process and improving relations with other Arab countries, the issue of lifting the subsidies has of late become a major occupation and needless to say the ultimate test upon which failure or success of his government rests.

"It will either lift Kabariti to the status of great prime ministers in the history of this country or lead to his government's downfall," as a seasoned analyst commented recently.

The analyst was referring to a statement His Majesty King Hussein made earlier this month likening Mr. Kabariti to Prime Ministers Hazza'a Majali, Wasfi Al Tal and Abdul Hamid Sharaf, all of whom left their mark on the history of the Kingdom.

Mr. Kabariti, close aides say, considers the goal of reducing the budget deficit, estimated this year to reach JD200 million, as a national duty from which there can be no escape. They say that by "rechanneling bread subsidies and lifting it on animal feed and fodder, the prime minister will not only reduce the deficit but also save the Economic Readjustment Programme that started in 1989 following the near collapse of the dinar."

Those aides reject contentions by the opposition that it was none other than the Readjustment Programme that has led to the many hardships from which Jordanians suffer today.

"The dinar collapsed and lost most of its value before the intervention of the International Monetary Fund," says one close associate of the prime minister. "Since the introduction of the programme, however, economic indicators have been improving all the time: inflation dropped from 23 per cent in 1989 to four per cent this year; unemployment fell from 25 per cent to 15 per cent; and economic growth rose from minus two per cent to plus six in the seven-year period since 1989."

For these and other reasons, the government seems to scoff at the parliamentary opposition, especially for threatening to call for a vote of confidence in the prime minister and his team. In any case, the government is well aware that the opposition cannot move a motion of no-confidence before December when Parliament holds its winter regular session. By that time the government hopes the storm over bread prices would have passed anyway.

But even if the 41 deputies, who made the implicit threat in a letter they signed and addressed to Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sourh this week urging the government to drop its plan on subsidies, insisted on a vote of no-confidence the government feels sure that it can defeat the bill.

The question now is whether Mr. Kabariti and his colleagues feel confident that the mood in the street has changed positively enough for citizens to accept the government's prescription for solving the problem of subsidies. If indeed public opinion has come to understand what is at stake for Jordan and share with the government that steps must be taken in order to stay afloat economically, then there would be no doubt that our parliamentarians too will eventually reach the same realisation as the government's.

This is not, cannot be, a matter of who possesses more will and wit, the opposition or the Cabinet. It is rather that we all can choose to blink first if our true concern is national security and economic well-being.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THANKS TO the mediation efforts of the German government, the remains of Israeli and Lebanese resistance men have been exchanged through the International Committee of the Red Cross, said a writer for Al Ra'i daily. The exchange followed a series of attacks and counterattacks by the two sides on each other's positions that left more dead and injured over the past few months added Mahmoud Rimawi. But unlike the situation that followed the end of other wars around the world when the exchange marked the start of the end of conflict, the area in southern Lebanon is still facing tension and the two sides are clearly and openly declaring their hostile stands towards one another, he said. The writer said that the dangerous situation is still there because of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon which prompts the resistance to carry out attacks against the occupiers and draw counterattacks from Israel. The war is far from being over despite the exchange of the remains of the dead and the present lull in the fighting is temporary, added the writer who said the attacks will sooner or later be resumed as long as the Israelis remain intransigent in their position. Renewal of fighting in southern Lebanon, he warned, is bound to keep the whole region in turmoil and ruin chances of peace.

Washington Watch

The Arab American political agenda for 1996

By Dr. James Zogby

THE YEAR 1996 will be a record year for Arab American involvement in electoral politics. Plans are already under way to insure the community's participation in both parties' national conventions, the campaigns of President Bill Clinton and of Republican Bob Dole, and state and local elections across the U.S.

When the Republican and Democratic National Conventions meet next month in San Diego and Chicago, respectively, a combined number of over 100 Arab Americans will be active participants as delegates or party leaders. This represents the largest number of Arab Americans to have won election to party posts, and reflects a decade of work by Arab American political activists.

As in the past, this year's conventions will feature major Arab American events in honour of the respective parties. This year's events, however, will be even more prominent than those of previous conventions.

At the Republican National Convention in San Diego, the Arab American reception will take place directly across from the convention centre in a special pavilion built for the convention by the Chrysler Corporation.

The Arab American event will be organised by the Arab American Institute (AAI) in cooperation with Chrysler and under the sponsorship of Senator Spencer Abraham, who will serve as the event's chairman.

A local host committee of prominent Arab American political leaders and businessmen worked to insure adequate funding and community participation in the tribute. Senator Abraham's involvement has guaranteed that the Arab American will be well-attended and recognised by party officials as a major convention event.

The fact that this year's Democratic National Convention will have the largest number of Arab American delegates elected is significant in and of itself. Since President Clinton ran unopposed, securing delegate positions was more difficult than in previous years when Arab Americans could win by running attached to competing candidates. The previous record number of Arab American delegates to a major party convention came in 1988 when Arab Americans were elected as Jesse Jackson delegates. To win this year Arab Americans had to be elected and slated by the Clinton campaign; and thus the larger number of those elected reflects the respect given to the Arab American community by the Clinton White House and cam-

paign.

This year's Arab American event in Chicago at the Democratic National Convention will take place in the Democratic Party's headquarters hotel. Its co-chairs will be the three Arab American Democratic Members of Congress, Nick Rahall of West Virginia, John Baldacci of Maine and Pat Danner of Missouri; and, like its Republican counterpart, the event's success will in part be due to the active involvement of Chicago Arab American businessmen and political leadership.

As Arab Americans enter the fall campaign, their roles will be insured because both the Clinton and Dole campaigns have sanctioned official Arab American support committees. Arab Americans have been recognised as a constituent group by Republican campaigns since the Reagan campaign established an official committee in 1984. In September 1992, the Clinton campaign organised the first such Arab American Democratic support committee. The early recognition and establishment of Arab American campaign groups this year represents a new breakthrough for the community.

The Arab Americans for Dole Committee will be chaired by George Salem, a Palestinian American attorney who served as an official in the Reagan and Bush campaigns and was also an official in the Reagan administration.

Already in formation, the Arab Americans for Dole Committee includes dozens of prominent Arab American Republicans in 20 states, including such recognised leaders as Honorary Chairman Senator Abraham, Congressman Ray LaHood, former Assistant to President Reagan Mitch Daniels, and Honorary Dole Chairman and former Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh.

The Arab Americans for Clinton-Gore Committee is being chaired by the Democratic Arab American members of Congress and an unusually prominent list of Arab American leaders including few trustees of the party and the president of a major labour union, United Auto Workers — the first Arab American to hold such a post.

The presence of five trustees is itself a significant breakthrough for Arab Americans, since trustees are those who have contributed in excess of \$100,000 to the national party. This year those Arab Americans have already raised in excess of \$1.5 million for the party, evidence of the new seriousness Arab Americans are demonstrating in their national political involvement.

ment.

I will be heading the Arab American Clinton-Gore steering committee and coordinating the work of the Arab American Democrats. This group includes 40 elected officials and 28 Democratic party officials.

This year Arab Americans are central to the Democratic Party's efforts to create a National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee, which is to represent all the ethnic groups in the party. Since the ethnic vote in key electoral states (Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey) is considered critical to the victory in November, Arab Americans will play a noteworthy role in this year's election. Although it has yet to be formally announced, the Dole campaign will in all probability also form an ethnic council.

As part of their organised effort, Arab Americans will be engaged in local organising, voter registration and voter mobilisation. Already, the AAI has compiled an Arab American voter database of more than 550,000 registered voters, with plans under way to update the database by registering at least another 50,000 new voters by November.

Targeting the key Midwestern states, where more than 40 per cent of Arab Americans reside, will be important to the community's success in establishing itself as a recognised voter group in 1996.

"The (Arab American) community has a central role to play in advancing its own social and political interests as an American constituency, while at the same time working to become a bridge of understanding between the concerns of the Arab World and those of the U.S."

In addition to the national race, this year a record number of 41 Arab Americans are running for state and local positions. This number includes one new candidate for Senate, four Arab American members of Congress running for reelection and three new congressional candidates.

Richard Leyoub, the current attorney general of Louisiana, is running for the Senate seat being vacated this year by J. Bennett Johnston. Leyoub is a

Democrat who has already won two statewide races by large margins, and is one of the favourites to make the two-candidate run-off election in November. Leyoub, who is of Lebanese descent and a strong supporter of the Arab American community's concerns, has gathered support from the Arab Americans nationwide.

Congressman Nick Rahall II is the senior Arab American member of Congress. A ten-term Representative from West Virginia, Rahall has been at the forefront of national Arab American organising efforts, and one of the leading voices in Congress on U.S.-Middle East issues, particularly Palestinian rights and Lebanese sovereignty.

Congresswoman Pat Danner, a two-term Democrat from Missouri, has a long record of public service in her home region. Having defeated an eight-term incumbent in 1992, Danner handily cruised to victory in the 1994 elections and is considered a strong favourite to win reelection.

John Baldacci, the congressman from Maine's second district, briefly considered an effort to draft him for the Senate race against incumbent Republican William Cohen, but opted to run for reelection in his district. Baldacci has spoken eloquently of his Arab American roots, and shown strong growth as a national legislator during his first term in office.

Ray LaHood, a freshman

Democrat Chris John (Louisiana's open 7th district) and Clem Balanoff (Illinois 11th district), and Republican John Sununu, Jr. (2nd district of New Hampshire). Both John and Sununu face primaries in September to make it to the November race in districts where they would have a good chance of winning. Balanoff has already won his primary and faces a rematch with the incumbent, freshman Republican Jerry Weller.

Additionally, 10 Arab Americans are running for state senators and representatives and 14 judgeships in states across the U.S.

On top of a full electoral programme, Arab Americans are active this year in a range of Middle East peace issues as well.

A major national petition on Lebanon is gathering signatures across the country, from Rhode Island to Michigan to California. The petition — which urges the U.S. to push for Israeli compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 including withdrawal from Lebanon, and calls for increased levels of aid to help rebuild the Lebanese infrastructure — currently has tens of thousands of signers.

At the same time, a lobbying effort is underway to get members of Congress not to endorse an anti-Lebanon "Sense of the Congress" resolution, and endorse instead a pro-Lebanon bill being supported by Senator Abraham and Congressman Rahall. And Arab Americans are working to build a broad consensus in support of the Middle East peace process.

This is a dangerous time for the Middle East, and Arab Americans seek to play a role speaking to the administration, congressional candidates and the larger U.S. public about the dangers that face the peace process if it is stalled, and the steps that must be taken to insure continued progress towards a comprehensive peace.

While clearly facing challenges beyond their resources, Arab Americans have made remarkable progress towards their carving out a role in U.S. politics.

The community has a central role to play in advancing its own social and political interests as an American constituency, while at the same time working to become a bridge of understanding between the concerns of the Arab World and those of the U.S.

Saudi Arabia faces employment challenge

By Christine Hauser Reuter

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia is facing the tough challenge of how to find more jobs for its citizens and maintain a generous welfare system at a time of state belt-tightening, officials, businessmen and economists say.

They say these issues are more crucial than ever to underpin social stability as the population grows and the nation recovers from the shock of two bombings in less than a year.

The recent attacks, which killed 24 Americans and two Indians, raised fears of home-grown dissent in the kingdom, a key Western ally and the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

Excessive spending by some members of the royal family is now exposed by the economic decline, whereas in the oil boom years it was not so obvious, said a Saudi businessman.

"These people want a job... They see all this money and ask 'where is it going?'" said another Saudi businessman. "You should see the poverty in the villages and the unemployment."

"The real challenges are economic. If Saudi Arabia can educate people and open new jobs, not in the government but in the private sector... Most of the extremists we see in our country now are coming from poor families," a senior Saudi government official said.

"Lack of education or poverty. This is what causes security problems. We need now to deal with the causes, not the result," another Saudi official said. Unemployment, which some economists estimate

as high as 20 per cent, is climbing and 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 20.

About six million expatriates work in Saudi, which has a population of about 18 million. Fewer than seven per cent of the private sector employees are Saudi, economists and bankers say.

The Saudi government had for decades of oil wealth provided its citizens with a generous welfare system that paid for most of their basic needs, now it says it is trying to address the unemployment problem in its 1995-2000 development plan.

The plan says 659,900 new Saudi job entrants must be absorbed, with about 80 per cent having secondary school education or less. It foresees 340,000 new jobs in the period, 30 per cent of them in professional or technical fields.

Saudi citizens had for decades favoured well-paid, half-day managerial jobs in the state sector, but a state

spending squeeze due to low oil prices in the early 1990s has changed that and the government can no longer create more public sector jobs to accommodate Saudis.

In 1995, Riyadh slashed some subsidies, hiked utility prices and told citizens to get ready for a period of adjustment as it tries to deal with a cash crunch.

"The real challenge with lower government revenues is how can you continue to keep the people happy," said a Riyadh-based economist who works for the government.

"The social contract is the basis of the (government's) legitimacy. It is the thrust of everything the government seems to be doing and will probably be doing. The very basic element of the social contract is finding employment for people."

The "population is growing faster than the economy," said a U.S. embassy report on Saudi economic trends in 1996. It said per

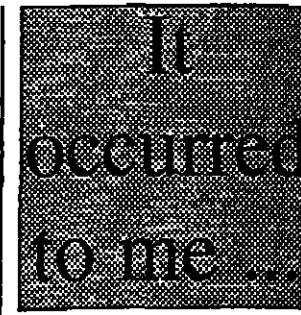
capita gross domestic product (GDP) fell by more than half since the early 1980s, to \$6,700 in 1995 from \$18,800 in 1981.

Economists estimate annual population growth in Saudi Arabia at between three and four per cent until the end of the century.

The kingdom, in a sign of its determination to employ its citizens, is using a big stick method with the private sector by withholding loans from companies of 20 people or more which do not increase Saudi labour by at least five per cent.

But Saudis "don't have the job skills to get the salaries they demand," said the economist. "Menial jobs for Saudis are as incongruous as (U.S. presidential candidate) Dole in denim."

But some economists and bankers say Saudi attitudes towards jobs are changing and you can even find Saudi taxi drivers these days, an idea unthinkable a few years ago.



Paralytic para-fixtures

By Ali Kassay

As one drives in the beautiful streets of Western Amman, as so many people seem to do in the absence of other idleness, and to fulfil the Jordanian passion for being looked at, one notices a remarkable phenomenon. I do not refer to the Jordanian youth fruitfully and creatively employing their time in loafing around, nor to the brand new deluxe cars which adorn the streets in numbers that rise in direct proportion to the severity of the economic crisis that holds the country in its grip. I refer to street crossings for the disabled.

At many an intersection on the streets of Western Amman, such as Zahran Street and in Shmeisani, one notices signs indicating a crossing for the disabled. As if this thoughtfulness by the municipality were not uncharacteristic enough in itself, one is further surprised by the presence of a ramp at the marked spot, permitting the disabled person to wheel his chair off the half-metre-high pavement and onto the street.

So, our friend manages to reach the divider in the middle of the street. There he comes unstuck, because there is often no ramp on the other side that permits him to complete his journey to the opposite pavement. He then has the choice of returning to his point of departure, or spending the rest of his life on the isle.

But another question presents itself: Unless this person happens to have been born on the spot next to the traffic light where there is a crossing for the handicapped, complete with wheelchair and road skills, how on earth did he get there? After all, the crossings designed for the use of the disabled are so few and far in between, and they are interspersed with numerous obstacles that make a perambulation in the streets an equally challenging prospect for the physically unimpaired.

An even more peculiar sight can be found at the arrivals lounge of the airport. In the centre of the hall, one of the pillars bears high the familiar sign of a facility for the handicapped. I was intrigued by this sight on one occasion when I was waiting for another delayed flight which, I had been assured by the airport information service twenty minutes previously, would arrive punctually. I decided to investigate what services are provided for the disabled at that pillar.

Could it be an information point? Perhaps a telephone post at which the person could announce his arrival? Directions to a toilet for the disabled? Actually, none of the above. The pillar which proudly displayed that sign stood aloof in a windswept space. Affixed upon it was a display box bearing a dust-faded picture of a group of camels that seemed, along with the rest of us, to be hoping for better things, but without much conviction. Even that was positioned too high up to be appreciated by a person confined to a wheelchair. On another side two loose electricity wires dangled absent-mindedly, their tips wrapped with insulating tape. That, apart from a few smears and smudges, was all. Could the airport management be recommending euthanasia by electrocution as a way out of one's problems?

Netanyahu
(Continued from page 1)
conference at which I
Arab-Israeli talks
launched.
Some referring to a
post invitation is de
ing that negotiations
ing that the principle
trading occupied Arab
for peace. It is notab
back the Golan High
captured by Israel in 19
and annexed in 1981.
Mr. Netanyahu, howe
not consistently ruled
any other territorial co
anyway to the Arabs st
and his right-wi
ing party has a "differe
interpretation" of the la
peace principle.
[Netanyahu believes that Isra
already return
ground land to the Arabs.]
Ararat, Levy fu
(Continued from page 1)
...in Washington
...that is reciproc
...Netanyahu told t
...that he was se
...making prog
...the Palestinians "Rec
...is not a tactic I
...I want to move t
...forward," comm
...man Yair Ararat
...Mr. Netanyahu I
...
...Ararat described t
...Mr. Levy as "ver
...frustrated, very frust
...and with open heart
...asked Mr. Levy to pass
...his best wishes to M
...Netanyahu.
...He said he expected r
...to return talks to resum
...
...We will agree upon whe
...happens, on the level an
...the place."
...He said Ararat, Mah
...Ararat said he expecte
...meeting...
...between Mr. Ararat and M
...Netanyahu...
...the Palestinian demand bu
...an in the Israeli leader ha
...referred to himself
...
...Mr. Levy, visibly relaxe
...dared the opinionated
...Tuesday's meeting
...he said had succeede
...in "institutionalising"
...Israeli-Palestinian talks.
...We have decided to wor
...and in cooperation o
...the delicate issues. I believ
...we will overcome the obsta
...
...Mr. Netanyahu said earlie
...Tuesday that the main aim o
...the Ararat-Levy meeting
...was to open a "channel for
...discussions between Israe
...and the Palestinians."
...Contentious issues includ
...a long-delayed Israeli troop
...pullout from the West Bank
...town of Hebron, the nex
...stage of extending auton
...in rural areas on the Wes
...Bank and the resumption o
...negotiations on a final peace
...settlement.
...Mr. Netanyahu has so fa
...given only vague promises
...that he will respect the
...autonomy accords signe
...between the Palestinians an
...the previous Labour govern
...ment.
...A Palestinian official said
...Israel and the Palestinia
...agreed to move towards
...renewing the agreement o
...stationing international
...observers in Hebron and
...releasing Palestinian women
...prisoners.
...Another official said tha
...Mr. Ararat will convey to
...Syrian President Hafez Al
... Assad a message from Israe
...urging Syria to resume the
...peace talks and to hold a
...meeting between the foreig
...ministers of the two coun
...tries.
...Both sides have accuse
...the other of violating the
...agreements.
...According to Israel Radio,
...Mr. Levy pressed Mr. Ararat
...to put a stop to Palestinia
...political activity in Israe
...annexed East Jerusalem,
...which the Jewish state says
...violates the accords.
...But Mr. Ararat said he was
...confident the differences
...could be overcome. "We
...will continue the successfu
...and positive dialogue on all
...levels in order to solve this
...issue (Hebron) and all othe
...hanging issues," he said.
...However, he warned that
...the Palestinians would not
...renegotiate the autonomy
...accords to allow Israel to
...water down its commitments

'Netanyahu to propose Lebanon pullout'

(Continued from page 1)

conference at which the Arab-Israeli talks were launched.

Syria, referring to the 1991 invitation, is demanding that negotiations be based on the principle of trading occupied Arab land for peace. It is notably driven by the desire to win back the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Mr. Netanyahu, however, has consistently ruled out any further territorial concessions to the Arabs stressing that his right-wing Likud Party has a "different interpretation" of the land-for-peace principle.

Likud believes that Israel has already returned enough land to the Arabs by

giving back the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1982, which made up about 90 per cent of the territory captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

However, Israeli leaders from all sides of the political spectrum have repeatedly stressed the Jewish state has no territorial claims over southern Lebanon, and that the troops are solely there to protect northern Israel from guerrilla attack.

The proposal comes hot on the heels of an unprecedented prisoner and body swap between Israel and Hizbollah on Sunday which was mediated by Germany.

Before the arrival of Mr. Ross in Damascus, Syria called for a U.S. action plan to kickstart the Israeli-Arab peace process.

"An American blueprint for a peace settlement is needed now more than before. The Arabs, after months of talks paralysis, are waiting for the first initiative from both the new government in Israel and the U.S.," said the official Syria Times daily.

"More than ever its (U.S.) chiding and encouragement are needed to hold all sides to their commitment to making peace. Mr. Ross can do a lot if he rides the right boat and uses the right tools," the paper added.

The Syria Times warned that "time is running out in the Middle East" and that a new shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may be needed to put the peace process back on track.

Jordan, France stress need to resume peace talks on all tracks

(Continued from page 1)

the Jordanian and French sides discussed bilateral relations, Jordan's relations with the European Union (EU) and the rescheduling of the Kingdom's debts to France.

Before leaving for Israel for his first meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. de Charette said that the "international concern" over the peace process that was prompted by the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel was "wrong", stressing that France "accepts facts as they come and does not intervene in the internal affairs of other countries."

Later in the day, Mr. de

Charette met with Palestinian officials at the French consulate general in Jerusalem, after deciding against a visit to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) unofficial headquarters Orient House following intense Israeli pressure.

Among those present were speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Ahmad Qureia and Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi.

Mr. de Charette, who visited Syria on Monday and Lebanon on Tuesday, before arriving in Jordan, was to travel to the Gaza Strip later on Tuesday for talks with President Yasser Arafat.

On Wednesday he will return to Jerusalem to meet

Mr. Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Israel had warned Mr. de Charette not to visit Orient House in annexed East Jerusalem, which Mr. Netanyahu has threatened to close if Palestinians do not stop political activity there.

However, the French minister said he avoided Orient House because the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, Faisal Husseini, was absent on an overseas visit.

He reiterated the French stand on Jerusalem. "Orient House is the expression of the basic fact that the Jerusalem issue is not resolved and it must be through negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians."

In Amman, Mr. de Charette said "France respects the Palestinian presence in East Jerusalem."

Mr. de Charette has also said France is seeking a greater role in helping to salvage the peace process.

"From now on France is a major player in the Middle East and it intends to take on the full weight of its responsibilities," he said in Beirut.

Mr. de Charette said France would launch its own initiatives to secure the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"Either they (the stalled talks) develop or I want to go anywhere, even to the moon, to get them started," he said during his visit to Lebanon.

"We don't intend to stand still...We will be active, present and at the side of Lebanon," Mr. de Charette told reporters in Beirut.

"Be assured that during this period France will take initiatives to ensure that things progress and that the peace process, I hope, can resume its path."

Mr. de Charette said his talks with Mr. Assad convinced him Syria wanted the resumption of peace talks which Israel broke off after suicide bombings in Israel this year by Islamic militants.

"I was convinced...that Syria ardently wants the pursuit, the resumption of the peace process and the application of all the (United Nations) Security Council resolutions," he said.

Arafat, Levy find common ground

(Continued from page 1)

spoke about in Washington and Cairo, that is reciprocity."

Mr. Netanyahu told the legislators that he was serious about making progress with the Palestinians. "Reciprocity is not a tactic to delay. I want to move the process forward," committee spokesman Yair Amikam quoted Mr. Netanyahu as saying.

Mr. Arafat described the talks with Mr. Levy as "very constructive, very fruitful and with open hearts" and asked Mr. Levy to pass on his best wishes to Mr. Netanyahu.

He said he expected regular peace talks to resume "very soon."

"We will agree upon when it happens, on the level and the place."

His top aide, Mahmud Abbas, said he expected a summit meeting soon between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu — something the Palestinians demand but which the Israeli leader has refused to commit himself to.

Mr. Levy, visibly relaxed, shared the general optimism after Tuesday's meeting which he said had succeeded in "institutionalising" Israeli-Palestinian talks.

"We have decided to work jointly and in cooperation on the delicate issues. I believe we will overcome the obstacles."

Mr. Netanyahu said earlier Tuesday that the main aim of the Arafat-Levy meeting was to open a "channel for discussions between Israel and the Palestinians."

Contentious issues include a long-delayed Israeli troop pullout from the West Bank town of Hebron, the next stage of extending autonomy in rural areas on the West Bank and the resumption of negotiations on a final peace settlement.

Mr. Netanyahu has so far given only vague promises that he will respect the autonomy accords signed between the Palestinians and the previous Labour government.

A Palestinian official said Israel and the Palestinians agreed to move towards renewing the agreement on stationing international observers in Hebron and releasing Palestinian women prisoners.

Another official said that Mr. Arafat will convey to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad a message from Israel urging Syria to resume the peace talks and to hold a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Both sides have accused the other of violating the agreements.

According to Israel Radio, Mr. Levy pressed Mr. Arafat to put a stop to Palestinian political activity in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, which the Jewish state says violates the accords.

But Mr. Arafat said he was confident the differences could be overcome. "We will continue the successful and positive dialogue on all levels in order to solve this issue (Hebron) and all other hanging issues," he said.

However, he warned that the Palestinians would not renegotiate the autonomy accords to allow Israel to water down its commitments

on issues such as Hebron.

"You have to understand that what has been agreed upon is enough," he said.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Levy did not announce a date for a resumption of talks on a final settlement for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which were opened briefly by former Premier Shimon Peres before Israel's May 29 elections.

However, Mr. Levy assured Mr. Arafat that Israel had no intention of postponing the negotiations, Israel Radio reported.

But before the Arafat-Levy meeting, hardline Israeli Minister Ariel Sharon denounced Mr. Arafat as a "war criminal."

"The Israeli government signed a bad deal with Yasser Arafat, who is a war criminal," Mr. Sharon told Israel Radio.

Another extremist member of the government, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eytan, railed against the talks between Mr. Levy and Mr. Arafat.

"Arafat does not merit a meeting at a level higher than border guard," he told the radio.

The head of the PLO's parliament-in-exile, Salim Zaanun, warned that if Mr. Netanyahu backtracked on the autonomy accords the Palestinians could restore clauses calling for the destruction of Israel to their charter erased in May.

"If the current Israeli government retreats from what has come before it, then it is natural that we restore these texts," Mr. Zaanun told the Arab daily Al Alam Al Youm.

Council defies Arafat

Meanwhile in Ramallah the Palestinian self-rule council on Tuesday began drawing up a temporary constitution despite an order from Mr. Arafat to put the project on hold.

The 88 deputies in the autonomous parliament opened discussions expected to last several weeks by tackling Chapter II of a planned constitution, relating to civil rights.

Chapter I, dealing with a system of government, was put on ice. Earlier a letter from Mr. Arafat was read to the council urging deputies not to start the debate over the draft constitution drawn by a parliamentary committee, and demanding that a PLO committee draw up another version.

"I urge you not to put this issue on the agenda for the moment," said the letter read out to deputies by Legislative Council President Ahmed Qureia.

The project submitted to the council is not valid for several reasons (...) I therefore urge you to wait for the project that will be put before you by the ad hoc committee of the PLO," it added.

But deputies took little notice of the plea, voting almost unanimously with a show of hands to start the debate.

The constitution to cover the remainder of the interim period of Palestinian autonomy up to May 1999 is of vital importance for the self-rule council, which cannot pass legislation until it is in place.

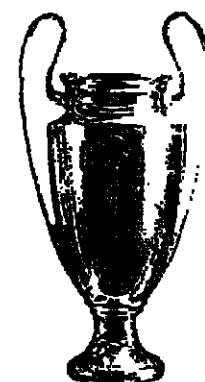
WE'RE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE WINNING TEAM.



BEST TRADE DOCUMENTATION BANK WINNER: HSBC

VOTED #1 BY THE READERS OF "PROJECT & TRADE FINANCE", A EUROMONEY PUBLICATION.

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC WAS VOTED THE BEST TRADE DOCUMENTATION BANK BY EUROMONEY READERS. THIS RECOGNITION BEARS TESTIMONY TO HSBC'S STRONG PRESENCE IN THE GLOBAL MARKET, WITH 3,300 OFFICES IN 72 COUNTRIES. IT ALSO SYMBOLIZES THE SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF TRADE FINANCE SERVICES ACROSS THE



HSBC GROUP, WHICH MAKES IT THE MOST PREFERRED BANK AMONG CORPORATE CLIENTS WORLDWIDE. THE BRITISH BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE HSBC GROUP, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE MIDLAND BANK IN EUROPE, HONGKONG BANK IN ASIA AND MARINE MIDLAND BANK IN THE U.S.A.



البنك البريطاني للشرق الأوسط
The British Bank of the Middle East

HSBC Member HSBC Group

Your local global bank.

King Fahd urges steps to lure investment

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has called for measures to encourage Saudis to invest at home and take advantage of economic reforms, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Tuesday.

King Fahd, heading a weekly cabinet meeting on Monday night, said such measures should include raising the return from investments in the kingdom.

"Under the liberal economic system adopted by Saudi Arabia, intensive efforts should be undertaken to allow private capital to be invested at home," the king said, according to Information Minister Fuad Al Farsi.

He said King Fahd, who suffered from a stroke in 1995, underscored the role of the private sector in economic recovery.

Saudi Arabia, the world's oil superpower, has launched reforms to revive its economy after it slowed because of low crude prices.

The reforms cover privatisation of some public institutions and improvement of investment laws to attract domestic and foreign capital. Officials said such programmes would gain momentum in the current 1995-1999 development plan, which focuses on economic diversification.

According to Gulf

bankers, more than \$30 billion in overseas Saudi assets have been repatriated over the past four years and more are expected to return to benefit from the sale of government facilities.

Low oil prices have also created a persistent deficit in Saudi Arabia's budget, forcing it to borrow and cut spending. The shortfall was slashed to around \$4.9 billion in 1996 from nearly \$10 billion in 1994 and a record \$31.6 billion in 1991.

SPA said King Fahd stressed the role of trade in the Saudi economy, saying Saudi Arabia was one of the countries having the highest ratio between its trade and the gross domestic product (GDP). His figures showed imports accounted for around 45 per cent of the GDP and exports for more than 40 per cent.

Oil forms the bulk of Saudi Arabia's exports and provides more than 80 per cent of its total income. Under an OPEC-decreed quota, Saudi Arabia produces around eight million barrels per day (bpd) of crude, of which nearly 6.2 million bpd are exported.

Meanwhile, the president of the country's consultative council said Saudi Arabia should not be ashamed of running budget deficits, which have been brought about by a fall in oil prices and war in the Gulf.

Sheikh Mohammad Bin Ibrahim Bin Jubeir also said the problem of unemployment could be largely resolved if young people went to parts of the country where there was work to be done, rather than hanging around at home.

Sheikh Jubeir told a news conference that the Saudi budget deficit was a known fact of life.

"It's not something one should be ashamed of if there is a budget deficit. Most countries have a budget deficit. It arises from lower oil prices and the repercussions of the first and second Gulf wars," he said.

Saudi Arabia is currently enjoying higher oil prices, but is still squeezing spending to try to eliminate more than a decade of budget deficits, projected at \$4.9 billion in 1996.

Sheikh Jubeir said Saudi Arabia still had plenty of work to offer its young people if they were prepared to go and find it.

"Students live on campus and they expect to live and work in the community they know, but this is not possible. There is work elsewhere in the mountains and the deserts, but graduates do not want to work in these regions," he said.

He said many graduates were too ready to wait around in Riyadh, Jeddah or Medina until a job came up.

Tax free zones are hell for workers — ICFTU

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Tax-free areas intended to aid the economies of developing countries are hell for the people who work in the industries they favour, according to an international trade union report.

Employees are exploited and underpaid, and attempts to organise themselves are promptly suppressed, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) said after a survey of its affiliated unions worldwide.

Last year, the ICFTU counted 230 such export zones in nearly 70 countries, including more than 100 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 64 in Asia and 31 in Africa, employing an increasing number of workers subjected to conditions bordering on the inhumane.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the number of employees in these areas grew at an annual rate of nine per cent from 1975 to 1986 and 14 per cent between 1986 and 1990.

In Africa they numbered 250,000, in Latin America 1.2 million and in Asia three million, to which should be added between 14 million and 40 million Chinese employed in the coastal special economic zones, the ICFTU said.

But these "free" zones were free only for the employers, who enjoyed the same liberties as a fox free in the chicken house, the report charged.

Low wages and a "union-free environment" were the main advantages trumpeted by governments in trying to attract investors, in violation of ILO conventions, the ICFTU noted.

In Asia, for example, 30 per cent of workers in the export-processing zones were paid below their national legal minimum wage in 1995.

In many cases employers imposed such high production quotas that the workers, mainly women, had to take work home with them to finish in order to be paid.

The ICFTU cited the case of a South Korean textile company in Honduras, where workers, often in their teens, had to labour up to 80 hours per week to achieve their quotas.

In a Catch-22 situation, a 15-year-old girl was quoted as saying: "When we reach the quota, the bosses raise it the next day so that we are always behind."

Another worker, Lesly Rodriguez, earning around \$21.50 a week, added: "They told me that a Liz

Claiborne brand sweater costs \$90 in the United States. I earn 38 cents an hour making it."

Widespread poverty and unemployment are major obstacles to the organisation of trade unions in the countries concerned, the ICFTU said. Employers, able to rely on an inexhaustible labour pool for jobs that require little skill, take advantage of this to black-mail workers.

The ICFTU noted that the tax-free zones are established in countries close to industrialised states — Central America and the Caribbean for the United States, Malaysia and Indonesia for Japan and Australia, and North Africa for Europe — where it said political and social conditions were to be deplored.

Clairborne brand sweater costs \$90 in the United States. I earn 38 cents an hour making it."

Widespread poverty and unemployment are major obstacles to the organisation of trade unions in the countries concerned, the ICFTU said. Employers, able to rely on an inexhaustible labour pool for jobs that require little skill, take advantage of this to black-mail workers.

The ICFTU noted that the tax-free zones are established in countries close to industrialised states — Central America and the Caribbean for the United States, Malaysia and Indonesia for Japan and Australia, and North Africa for Europe — where it said political and social conditions were to be deplored.

In a Catch-22 situation, a 15-year-old girl was quoted as saying: "When we reach the quota, the bosses raise it the next day so that we are always behind."

Another worker, Lesly Rodriguez, earning around \$21.50 a week, added: "They told me that a Liz

Egypt triples wheat production over 13 years — expert

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has tripled its wheat production, and doubled grain production in general, over the past 13 years to cover 55 per cent of its domestic needs, an agricultural expert said here Monday.

Egyptian grain production rose from eight million tonnes in 1982 to 17 million in 1995, while the wheat harvest grew from two million tonnes to six million, said Sam Nassar, head of the Centre for Agricultural Studies.

The total amount of cultivated land grew from 2.5 million hectares (6.2 million acres) to three million hectares (7.7 million acres), which produce the equivalent

crop of 5.6 million hectares (14 million acres), he told a seminar here in preparation for the World Food Conference to be held in Rome in November.

With the rise in wheat production, Egypt can cover 55 per cent of its wheat consumption, which has increased to 11 million tonnes a year, Mr. Nassar said.

Egypt hopes to raise its wheat self-sufficiency to 75 per cent by 2002 amid plans to reclaim 60,000 hectares (150,000 acres) of desert land for agriculture per year for the next five years and increase yield per hectare, he said.

Oman committed to raising non-oil revenue

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's Economy Minister Ahmad Bin Abdul Nabi Mekki said in remarks published Sunday the Gulf state was committed in the long-term to increasing non-oil revenue and urging its citizens to invest.

Mr. Mekki, speaking to the Oman central bank magazine, said Oman's 1996-2000 economic plan depends on "increasing revenue by reducing spending and raising non-oil revenue by...not resorting to drawing down general reserves".

Oil makes up around three-quarters of Oman's revenues.

"There are a number of steps taken to widen the non-oil revenue base," Mr. Mekki said. These included following up on privatisation and encouraging investment.

Oman, a small, independent oil producer, has the most open economy and liberal investment laws in the Gulf. It has taken steps to boost its stock exchange and lure foreign investment.

Mr. Mekki also said amending the Arab Gulf state's tax and stock exchange laws was under discussion.

There are a number of steps taken to widen the non-oil revenue base," Mr. Mekki said. These included following up on privatisation and encouraging investment.

Oman, a small, independent oil producer, has the most open economy and liberal investment laws in the Gulf. It has taken steps to boost its stock exchange and lure foreign investment.

Mr. Mekki also said amending the Arab Gulf state's tax and stock exchange laws was under discussion.

Irish national income per head set to outstrip Britain — Quinn

DUBLIN (AFP) — Ireland will enjoy per capita income which is higher than that in Britain by the turn of the century if a dramatic up-swing in the national economy continues, Finance Minister Ruairi Quinn has said.

"On the current projections, we will, if we maintain the present progress that we have maintained to date, have a per capita income that will be higher than that of the U.K.," he told Irish

Radio. If Mr. Quinn's rosy predictions come true, the country will have successfully cast off an image shared with Greece and Portugal of the "poor man of Europe."

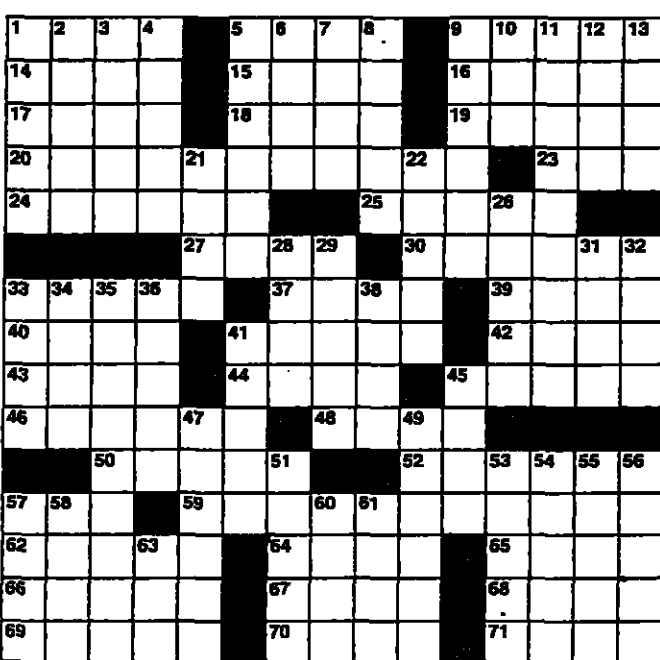
Since 1989, Ireland has achieved growth rates that are well above the European average. Irish gross domestic product (GDP) rose by five per cent in 1992, by 4.1 per cent in 1993, and by six per cent in 1994.

Economists have predicted that GDP figures for 1995 will show a growth of 7.5 per cent for the year. Ireland has managed to keep its budget deficit below three per cent of GDP. The country has also secured continuous reductions in public debt. As a result, Ireland has already fulfilled the convergence criteria for a single European currency due to be launched on Jan. 1, 1999.

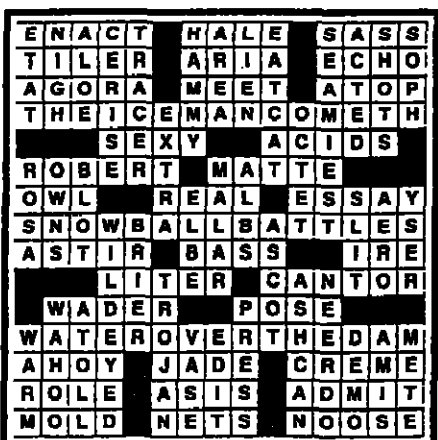
THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

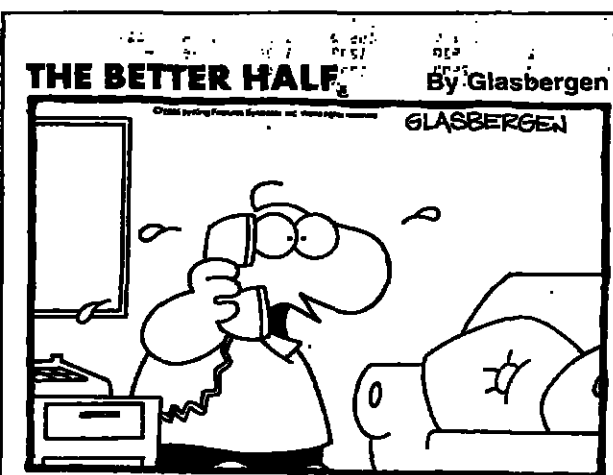
- 1 Row
- 5 Cicatrix
- 9 Compact
- 14 Singer Vikki
- 15 — sapiens
- 16 Literary device
- 17 Vicinity
- 18 Butterline
- 19 Piece of music
- 20 Reserve player
- 23 Fall asleep
- 24 Love seat
- 25 Headless nail
- 27 — length
- 30 Zenanas
- 33 Military student
- 37 Besides
- 39 Religious image
- 40 Winglike
- 41 Massage
- 42 Japanese Nobelist
- 43 Variable star
- 44 No ifs, — or buts
- 45 Xanthippe, e.g.
- 46 Stagger
- 48 Scram!
- 50 Taboos
- 52 Set
- 57 Man on the beat
- 59 Idler, of sorts
- 62 Fragrance
- 64 TV award
- 65 Lilliputian
- 66 Horses
- 67 Disencumbers
- 68 Inland sea
- 69 — nous (confidentially)
- 70 Fencing sword
- 71 American Beauty



© 1996 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

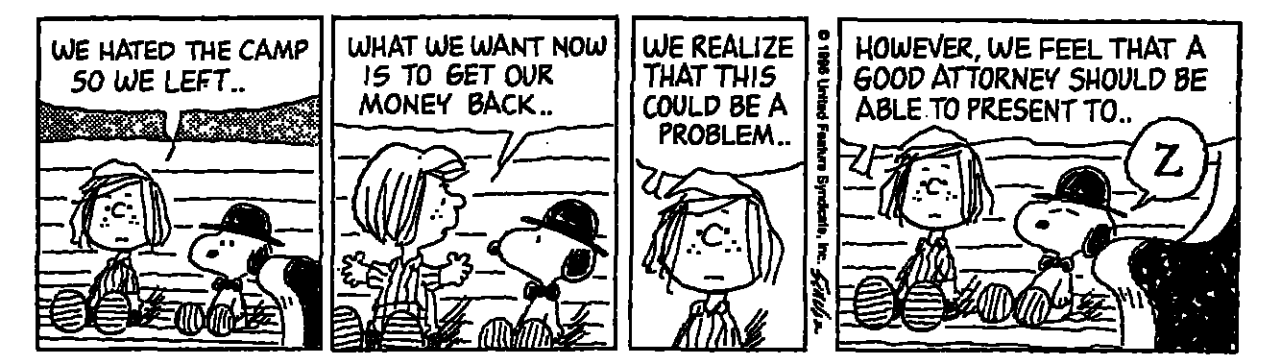


- 10 Food scrap
- 11 Train feature
- 12 — China
- 13 Changed the color
- 21 Miami cagers
- 22 Ancient Hebrew vestment
- 26 — stew
- 28 Thomas or Herbie
- 29 Runners
- 31 Speck
- 32 Singer Hank
- 33 Jargon
- 34 — vera
- 35 IA city
- 36 Muse of poetry
- 38 Obi
- 41 African plateau region
- 45 Fly alone
- 47 Box up
- 49 Face
- 51 Money in Ecuador
- 53 Perfume from flowers
- 54 City on the Nile
- 55 Lab burners
- 56 Sherlock Holmes' creator
- 57 Arrived
- 60 Desk item
- 61 Pelt
- 63 Debussy's "La —"



"I want to report a drive-by shooting! He was on a tricycle and he had a water pistol!"

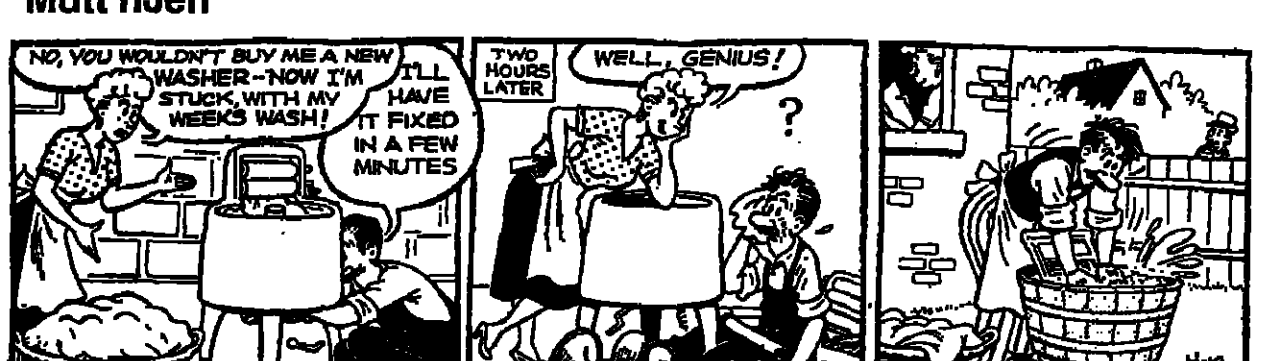
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'nJeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 24, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get advice from seasoned persons in business today on becoming more prosperous in the days ahead. Come to an understanding with your mate later this evening and you will have a harmonious time together.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Talk with fellow associates today and exchange views and make revisions to some plan you have for success, becoming more prosperous. You will soon gain greater prestige on some new projects, so be clever.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your mind is focused on your activities today if you are going according to the planets, so gain even greater expertise. Later this evening you can be with close friends and have some fun at your regular locations.

MOONCHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make sure you know what is best to do today where recreation is concerned. Consider the cost well before you consider any outside activities or that you do not run short of funds when they are needed in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There are situations at home which you do not comprehend and this is a good day today to clarify them. This evening is good for you to meet with knowledgeable persons to discuss the current project you are involved with.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your newspaper today for information you will find useful in the days ahead, and which will help you find greater success. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Find out where you are headed monetarily today so that you can make any appropriate financial decisions. Turn any difficulties into great stepping stones to your success and you will notice much prosperity for the days ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Work on your personal aims today since you have been too preoccupied with business and other matters of late. This evening will be good for you to consult with some bigwig and make a good plan of action for some new projects.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Concentrate on how you want to live in the days ahead and study methods and means of operation for gaining such aims. You can meet with some bigwig later this evening and iron out the details for some new methods of operation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A dynamic and clever close friend has ideas today for better gaining your own aims, so get in touch with this person. Later this evening you can go out on the town with your mate and have a romantic time together, however, don't stay out too late.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure you do not take any risks where your career activities and other important duties are concerned. This evening will be a good time for you to get out and see some close friends whom you have not visited for some time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study your advanced ideas today and get them on a workable plan and you can add to your abundance easily. This evening can be spent with some knowledgeable person who has some ideas for your success, so listen carefully.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Business

Beshir opens first oil refinery

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir inaugurated the country's first oil refinery Monday, declaring a victory for Sudan's self-sufficiency.

This refinery stands as a monument to the accomplishments of the Sudanese people in defiance of the economic sanctions imposed by the international community. President Beshir said in an opening speech broadcast on state radio.

Parliament speaker Hassan al-Turabi and most of President Beshir's cabinet were at the Abu Khirah refinery, located 400 kilometers west of Khartoum, outside the provincial capital of Omdurman, for the ceremony.

The refinery, described by the state media as a "gathering of unprecedented size," is a 100,000-barrel-a-day facility that will produce 100,000 barrels of refined oil daily.

"History will testify that our nation has launched itself forward and liberated itself from the shackles of tutelage and the begging for handouts offered by others," President Beshir said.

Earlier, he had urged Sudanese citizens to support the refinery, saying it was a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

He said the refinery would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country" and would be a "symbol of our nation's progress and a source of pride."

He also said the refinery would create 1,000 jobs and would be a "major step towards the economic development of the country."

A review of news from the Arabic press

According to the annual report, the bank's portfolio of securities for trading and investment amounted to JD 5.29 million of which JD 3.67 million were securities and shares for trading purposes. The report showed that credit facilities rose by 14.6 per cent last year reaching JD 25.8 million whereas the deposits dropped by 14 per cent to JD 37.5 million, shareholders' equity fell from JD 8.65 million to JD 7.56 million due to the losses which wiped 24 per cent of the bank's JD 10 million capital (Al Aswaq).

Morocco said this year it would open up its telecommunications sector to private investment but only in the retail end of the business. The state would retain control over fixed assets.

Moroccan telecommunications has huge potential for expansion. There are at present only 1.2 million telephone subscribers in a country of 27 million people. Mr. Woo-Chong said he wanted to develop his country's business in Africa and the Middle East.

"We were in competition not only with developing but with developed countries. There were a lot of countries covering this contract," Trade and Industry Minister Driss Jettou told reporters. "We hope it will give other companies some ideas."

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.0969	1.1024
DE Mark	0.477	0.4794
CH Franc	0.5882	0.5911
FR Franc	0.1409	0.1416
JP Yen	0.66	0.6633
NL Guilder	0.4249	0.427
IT Lira	0.0469	0.0471

TO ADVERTISE
IN THIS SECTION
CALL
667171/6-670141/4
EXT. 223

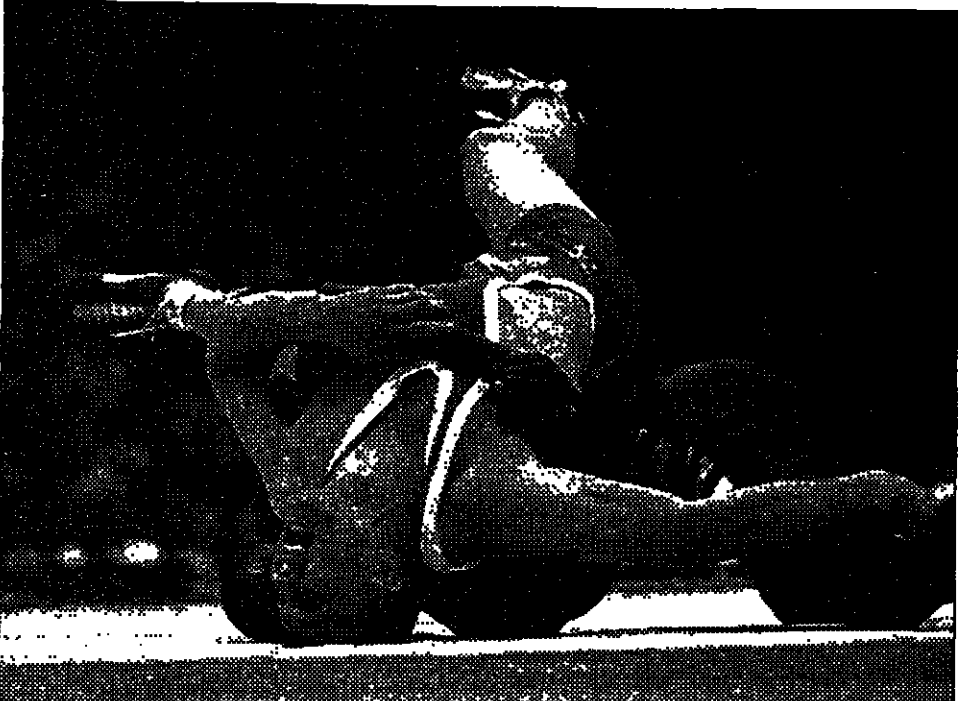
Atlanta 1996

Olympics schedule for Wednesday, July 24

BASKETBALL
Italy vs. U.S.
South Korea vs. Cuba
BASKETBALL
(Men)
China vs. Argentina
Yugoslavia vs. South Korea
Australia vs. Brazil
Croatia vs. Angola
Greece vs. Puerto Rico
Lithuania vs. U.S.
BOXING
1st round
CYCLING
Men's individual pursuit, qualification to quarterfinals
Women's sprint, qualification
Men's 1km time trials, final
Men's sprint, qualification, 1st round and repechage
EQUESTRIAN
Open three day team jumping
Open three day individual dressage, 2nd round
FENCING
Women's team epee, 1st round to medal bouts
Men's team sabre, 1st round
Men's team sabre, quarterfinals to medal bouts
GYMNASTICS
Men's individual all-around, final
JUDO
Men's and women's light-weight, prelims, repechage and final
ROWING
Men's and Women's light-weight, double sculls, repechage
Men's lightweight coxless four, repechage
Men's and Women's quadruple sculls, repechage
Men's and Women's eight, repechage
SHOOTING
Women's 30-metre standard rifle three position, 1st round to final
Men's double trap, prelims to final
Men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, prelims
SOCCER
(Men)
Spain vs. Australia
Saudi Arabia vs. France
Portugal vs. U.S.
Argentina vs. Tunisia
SOFTBALL
U.S. vs. Taiwan
Puerto Rico vs. China
Australia vs. Netherlands
Japan vs. Canada
SWIMMING
Men's 200 breaststroke, prelims to final
Women's 200 individual medley, prelims to final
Men's 100 butterfly, prelims to final
Women's 400 medley relay, prelims to final
Women's 800 freestyle, prelims
TABLE TENNIS
Women's singles, prelims
Men's and Women's doubles
TEAM HANDBALL
(Men)
Russia vs. Kuwait
France vs. European champion
Croatia vs. Switzerland
Egypt vs. Algeria
Sweden vs. U.S.
Germany vs. Cuba
TENNIS
Men's and Women's singles, 1st round
VOLLEYBALL
Japan vs. Netherlands
Canada vs. Germany
Brazil vs. Russia
Peru vs. Cuba
U.S. vs. China
South Korea vs. Ukraine
WATER POLO
Hungary vs. Yugoslavia
Russia vs. Spain
Greece vs. Ukraine
Netherlands vs. Germany
Croatia vs. U.S.
WEIGHTLIFTING
76kg, Group B
76kg, Group A final
YACHTING
Finals



Members of Russia's gymnastic team from right to left: Alexei Nemov, Alexei Voropaev, head of the Russian team Leonid Arkaev, Eugeni Podgorni, Dimitri Vasilenko, Dimitri Trush and Sergei Charkov celebrate. The Russian team won the gold medal today at the Olympic summer Games in Atlanta (Reuters photo)



The United States' Derrick Waldroup (hidden) upends Fahrudin Hodzic from Bosnia July 22 during their Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling match. Waldroup won the 90-kg weight class 10-0 (Reuters photo)

Christie loses faith with Olympics

ATLANTA (AFP) — Reigning champion Linford Christie will start the defence of his 100m track title this week determined to end his career on a high — even though he has totally lost faith in the Olympics.

Christie, who only decided to run just before the Games, believes the Olympic movement has sold out. He did not take part in the opening ceremony and has yet to set foot in Atlanta after training with the British team in Florida.

But the British team captain found himself under fire on Monday — for both entering to turn up at all.

Former national director of coaching Frank Dick said: "Linford is not going to make the final in Atlanta. The best I can see him doing is getting to the semi-finals."

All this nonsense about "he won't be going", it does the sport no favours. It certainly doesn't do Britain's sprinting youngsters-in-waiting any favours.

Christie said: "Now, there is all this talk about paying them, which I don't agree with. I still think the Olympics should be totally prize or money-free. Once you win at the Games, the sponsorship and everything else comes through. They brought in the Dream Team, they brought in the tennis — I think they have lost it."

He is not the only one. Britain's 1956 Olympic

steeplechase gold medalist Chris Brasher, who organises the London Marathon, boycotted the Games after arguing: "All the freedom of the Games has gone now..."

Grant Hill, himself a member of the Dream Team and a forward with the Detroit Pistons, admitted: "I guess the Olympics are supposed to be the best in amateur sports and we have gotten away from that ideal."

That amateur ethos — and modern founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin's motto that it was the taking part that mattered above all else — took what may have been a mortal blow here when Dream Team player Shaquille O'Neal announced he had signed a \$123 million with the LA Lakers.

While the world's big-name sporting millionaires are not paid directly for competing at the Olympics, they all know that their value to sponsors will rocket if they win gold.

Most have chosen to stay away from Atlanta before their events, while the others have booked themselves into the city's top hotels, leaving the overcrowded athletes' village and its chaotic transport system — as well as the ideal of a world unified by sport — to lesser competitors.

Few track and field stars, who rarely appear at anything other than press conferences organised by sports shoe and clothing sponsors, can quite put

their finger on why the Olympics retains an aura at all.

World champion shot putter John Godina says: "An Olympic medal is worth much more than one from the World Championships. It's probably because it only comes once in four years."

Noureddine Morceli, the 1,500m world champion, is less sure. "I have never said a career without an Olympic title is a failed career. It's a dream to win the Olympics, you make history — but if you are world champion, then no one can take that away from you."

I would never say an Olympic title is more important than a world title. I'm more than satisfied."

Ethiopian 10,000m world champion Haile Gebrselassie, meanwhile, seems to capture both the Olympic romance and the reality.

Gebreselassie, one of the highest paid athletes in the world, looked delighted to take part in the opening ceremony but is enough of a realist to understand that success here will have its commercial spin-offs.

He said: "One of the first things I was taught by my manager was that money follows on from success."

Former swimming star hospitalised

ATLANTA (AP) — Former Olympic swimming star Dawn Fraser, who carried the torch and took part in the opening ceremony for the Atlanta Games, was hospitalised with chest pain Monday.

Fraser, who won four golds and three silvers at three Olympics, was in stable condition, but would stay in the hospital for at least two days for tests, according to Australian team officials.

Fraser, 58, complained of chest pain when she awoke, and the Australian team sent one of its doctors to the hospital to monitor her condition.

The Australian swimmer ran some 500 yards (metres) with the Olympic torch before the Games started and then was one of 10 athletes who were introduced at Friday's opening ceremony.

Fraser's 30-year-old daughter, Dawn Lorraine Fraser, was with her at the hospital. They were due to go on a vacation in the Caribbean after the Olympics.

Fraser won gold medals in the 100-metre freestyle in the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics. She also was a member of the 4-by-100 freestyle team that won gold in 1956.

Barkley makes amends

ATLANTA (AFP) — Charles Barkley struck a blow for sportsmanship — instead of elbowing Angola's Herlander Coimbra in the chest the way he did at the 1992 Olympics.

The "Dream Team III" forward made amends to the Angolan basketball team here Monday following an 87-54 triumph, hugging Coimbra as if he were a longtime friend and posing for pictures with the entire squad.

"Charles Barkley was a completely changed man, everything different and everything friendly with all the Angolan players," Angolan coach Vladimir Romero said.

"He gave the image we imagined all the players of the United States would have for players from the fifth world. Maybe he was able to correct everything that he did four years ago. We hold no grudges."

Barkley praised Angola's improvement from the 116-48 whipping inflicted in Barcelona in the first Olympic appearance by the original United States "Dream Team."

"Everybody was intimidated by us. Now they have had four years to get better," Barkley said.

Dallal sets Jordanian record

Ghneim swims 200m individual medley today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S OMAR Dallal Tuesday slashed 6.50 seconds off the Kingdom's 400 metre freestyle record when he finished the event with a time of 4.41.12 seconds on the fourth day of the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Dallal's time broke the Jordanian record set by one of the country's most prominent swimmers — Amer Al Wazani — with a time of 4.47.62 seconds.

Although he finished the event in last place, the 15-year-old Dallal showed a noticeable improvement as he broke his own record in the event by 15.86 seconds. His record in the event stood at 4.56.98.

The best time in the event was American Tom Dolan's 3.48.99 while the best Arab record belongs to Egypt's Hisham Al Masri at 3.59.11.

Dallal's participation was the first for a Jordanian athlete in the Centennial Olympics currently underway after Jordan's Walid Al Awazem was disqualified Sunday after failing to show up at the weigh-in prior to the competition.

The other swimmer, 13-year-old Mira Ghneim takes part in the 200 metres individual medley today (Wednesday).

Ghneim's record in the event stands at 2.50.16. She will swim in heat 1 of the event at 5:30 p.m. Jordan local time.

The other Jordanian athletes in athletics and shooting start competition Friday.

lete in the Centennial Olympics currently underway after Jordan's Walid Al Awazem was disqualified Sunday after failing to show up at the weigh-in prior to the competition.

The other swimmer, 13-year-old Mira Ghneim takes part in the 200 metres individual medley today (Wednesday).

Ghneim's record in the event stands at 2.50.16. She will swim in heat 1 of the event at 5:30 p.m. Jordan local time.

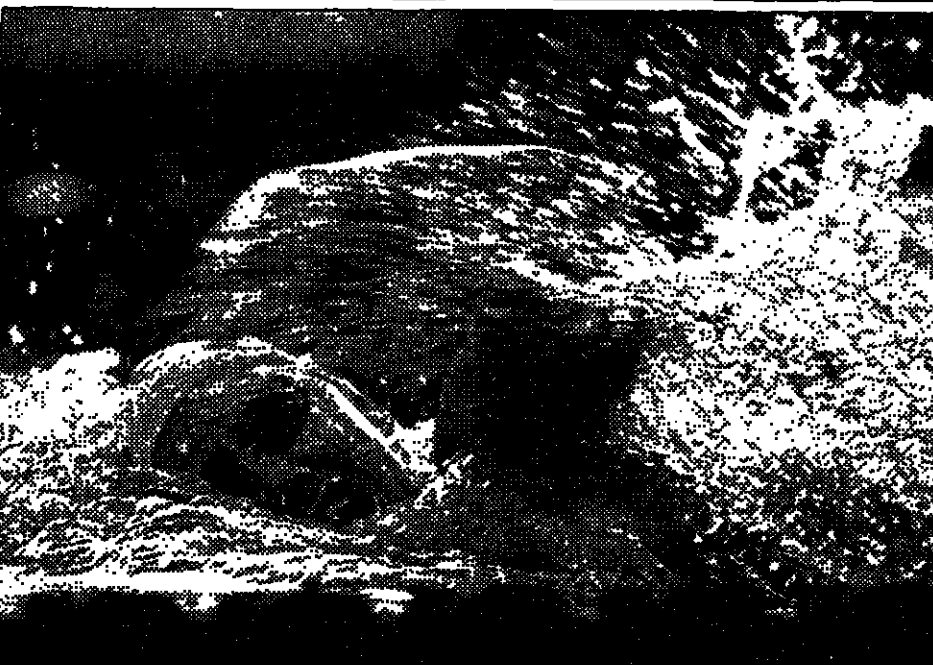
The other Jordanian athletes in athletics and shooting start competition Friday.

competition while scoring acceptable results.

* The Minister of Youth and Jordan Olympic Committee Secretary-General Dr. Mouaffaq Al Fawwaz held a meeting with the head of the Asian Olympic Solidarity Committee, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahd in which they discussed the state of Arab and Asian sports and ways of enhancing cooperation to upgrade their standard.

*Mr. Daoudieh and Jordan delegation head Dr. Ismat Al Kurdi had a meeting with representatives from sportswear manufacturer Reebok who provided the team with some sports apparel.

*Since the circumstances of the Kingdom's disqualified judo player to Atlanta were still unclear, the Kingdom's delegation said they would issue a statement after meeting with the player's coach today.



Michelle Smith of Ireland plows through the water on her way to winning the Women's 400m freestyle. Smith won her second gold medal of the Centennial Olympics (Reuters photo)

Irish prime minister praises Smith's double gold

DUBLIN (AFP) — Irish Prime Minister John Bruton Tuesday praised the magnificent golden double by Irish swimmer Michelle Smith at the Atlanta Olympics.

On Monday, Smith won the 400m freestyle following her earlier victory in the 400m medley, Ireland's first ever Olympic swimming medal.

Bruton said: "To be able to concentrate her mind and compete so brilliantly after the euphoria of the weekend is indeed the mark of a true Olympic champion."

Dublin Lord Mayor Brendan Lynch also said: "The city will give Michelle a reception on a grand scale. She is marvellous, her night-

and-day commitment to swimming is an inspiration to us all."

After the 1992 Games, Ireland's boxing medalists — Michael Carruth (gold) and Wayne McCullough (silver) were hailed as heroes in the streets of Dublin when thousands turned out to see them.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

RE: NEW COINS IN CIRCULATION

As of the 24th July, 1996, The Central Bank of Jordan will put into circulation new coins of the denominations 1 Dinar (One Dinar), 1/2 Dinar (Half Dinar) and 1/4 Dinar (Quarter Dinar), in conformity with the Law of the Central Bank of Jordan No. 23 year 1971 and the Bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (11) year 1996.

The new coins will circulate alongside the existing banknotes and coins from the same denominations and all shall simultaneously remain in circulation as legal tender.

SPECIFICATIONS:-

Denomination	Alloy	Diameter	Thickness	Weight	Shape	Edge
One Dinar	85% Nickel 14.5% Zinc 70% Copper	32mm	2.1mm	12.4 gm	Heptagonal	plain
Half Dinar	"	29mm	2mm	9.6 gm	"	"
Quarter Dinar	"	26.5mm	1.87mm	7.4 gm	"	"

The obverse of the new coins bears a new effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the two phrases "Hussein Bin Talal", "The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic.

The reverse incorporates:-

- * The denomination in figure encircled by Islamic Ornaments.
- * The denomination in writing in Arabic and English.
- * The Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue.
- * The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.

TO LET

New furnished deluxe apartment in Jabal Amman, 5th Circle. 3 bedrooms, living, dining, maid's room with bath, central heating. 1st floor with garden, garage and terrace.

Contact Tel: 701140 between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00

DON'T MISS

360° PANORAMIC VIEW OF AMMAN SKYLINE FLATS TO LET

Available for immediate occupation, unfurnished flats in the prestigious location of Al-Rabieh, close to the 5th Circle, only 5 spacious flats overlooking Amman, at reasonable rents.

For inspection and information contact Tel. 602632, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS

Own A Vacation House in Florida
It's also an investment!!
Minutes away from Walt Disney World
Pay 1/3 of total price only
Rest of payment can be paid through rental income

Fully Furnished with a pool, 3 bed rms, Family & Living Rm, 2 Bathrooms
Pay \$50,000 Only

For serious investors
Next trip will be on Sept 15 th, 1996
call us at 686263 or 695866

Florida International Investments
Orlando Amman Dubai Zurich

PRESENTS
THE SATIRICAL COMEDY
Arab Human Rights
at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation please call
625155 - 642155

Allied diplomats brief Turkish parliament on force to protect Kurds

ANKARA (AFP) — U.S., British and French diplomats lobbied the Turkish parliament Tuesday to extend the mandate of a U.S.-led and Turkey-based force formed to protect Kurds in northern Iraq.

Parliament, dominated by Islamists who recently came to power and other parties generally opposed to the force, is scheduled to vote late this month.

U.S. Ambassador Marc Grossman, accompanied by British and French colleagues, told members of parliament's foreign relations committee that continuation of the U.S.-led Operation Provide Comfort was a must for security in northern Iraq, diplomatic sources said.

Parliament met later in a closed session to discuss the issue.

Provide Comfort was created in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war to protect Kurds in northern Iraq from attacks

by troops loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Kurds seized control of northern Iraq right after the war in a revolt inspired by President Saddam's defeat against the U.S.-led coalition that ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Under the operation, U.S., British and French aircraft have been staging military surveillance missions over northern Iraq from Incirlik and Diyarbakir air bases in southern Turkey. The force also has a military coordination centre in northern Iraq.

However, Turkey, which spearheaded efforts to form the force at the time, has recently been complaining that the operation is functioning beyond its control and is urging changes in the force's command and structure.

The United States says Provide Comfort's role is vital in deterring President Saddam and analysts warn that a move by Turkey to

expel the force could irreparably hurt ties between Ankara and its closest ally in NATO, the United States.

The rise of Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to power has also made a deal between the allies difficult.

Mr. Erbakan, who took a hard, anti-Western line before Turkey's general elections last December, had said the first thing he would do if he came to power would be to expel Provide Comfort.

But he considerably softened his policies after he became prime minister on June 28 after forging a coalition deal with conservative former Premier Tansu Ciller's party.

However, a majority of deputies in his pro-Islamic Welfare Party are still staunchly opposed to extending the force's mandate.



The coffins of 43 dead guerrillas carried by Hizbollah comrades are taken to their final resting place at a Beirut graveyard. Tens of thousands of militants and weeping relatives marched in Beirut, South Lebanon and eastern Lebanon in three funeral processions Tuesday to bid farewell to more than 100 dead guerrillas returned by Israel in exchange for the remains of two Israeli soldiers held by Hizbollah for a decade (Reuters photo)

Hizbollah holds mass funeral for guerrillas returned by Israel

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah staged mass funerals in Beirut and other Lebanese cities on Tuesday for anti-Israeli guerrillas whose bodies were returned by the Jewish state at the weekend.

Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah presided over the funeral ceremonies for 49 guerrillas in Beirut, attended by tens of thousands of mourners kept in line by large numbers of black-clad Hizbollah security men.

Sheikh Nasrallah read Islamic prayers over the 49 coffins, covered by yellow Hizbollah flags and bouquets of flowers, and vowed that attacks on Israeli forces would continue despite Sunday's unprecedented exchange of prisoners and bodies.

"We are going to continue our operations and attacks until the end of the occupation of South Lebanon," he

told mourners. Sunday's operation was "a humanitarian issue which has nothing to do with our position," the Hizbollah chief added.

Under the German-mediated deal, Israel returned to Lebanon the bodies of 123 guerrillas, mostly from Hizbollah, and set free 45 Lebanese prisoners from the notorious Khiam Jail in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon.

In return, Hizbollah returned the bodies of two Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon for 10 years and released 17 members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

But Sheikh Nasrallah accused Israel of failing to return all the bodies of guerrillas buried in the Jewish state. "When we have more information on this we will ask the German mediator (Bernd Schmidbauer) to return them to us as he

pledged."

He also criticised the Lebanese authorities for their absence on the return of the bodies of the "martyrs."

"The remains of the Israeli soldiers were received by a state without people, in Lebanon our dead were received by a people without a state," he said.

The coffins, carried by six men dressed in black with red headbands, were taken to a cemetery in Beirut's southern suburb and buried in a row of small, breeze block tombs.

The crowds following behind chanted slogans against Israel and the United States and holding up yellow, red and green Hizbollah flags imprinted with a picture of machine guns. Young Shiites hit themselves rhythmically on the chest as a sign of mourning.

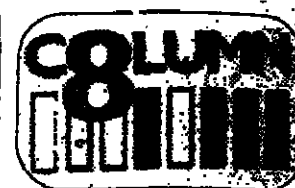
In the eastern town of Baalbeck, some 20,000 people turned out for the funerals of 12 other fighters. Mourners held aloft Iranian flags and trampled the Israeli flag underfoot.

In the southern port of Sidon 47 coffins were paraded down the main street in a procession headed by Hizbollah number two, Sheikh Naim Qassem.

All the shops were closed and women in black gathered on the main street to weep and throw rice and rose petals at the funeral procession.

At one point one woman broke free from the crowd to throw herself, weeping, on her son's coffin. "Yusef, you are finally going to get a grave," she said.

Out of the 123 bodies returned, Hizbollah handed over seven to various Islamic and Palestinian groups and eight to the Lebanese Communist Party.



2 Filipinos charged with gold scam in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Two Filipino men, one calling himself a Sultan and another a prince, were charged in an Australian court Tuesday with trying to sell 50,000 tonnes of gold bullion they did not have. Hatij Rodinood Sultan Karim, 39, and Datu Mohammad Kadhur Karim, 48, were charged with two counts of fraud in the Surfers Paradise Magistrates Court following their arrest in the Queensland resort town Monday. Police told the court they were alerted to the scam by a gold dealer who was approached to buy the bullion, claimed to be part of a mysterious cache of gold plundered during World War II. The two Filipinos were held in custody after failing to make bail of 5,000 Australian dollars (\$3,950) each, police said. Analysts believe about 129,000 tonnes of gold is being held around the world in various forms, with some 36,000 tonnes stored in bank vaults.

Royals' hair stylist has a brush with the law

HONG KONG (AFP) — The man who teases the tresses of Princess Diana, the Duchess of York and supermodels such as Naomi Campbell when they are in town, is now having a brush with the law. Hong Kong's top hairdresser Kimberley Robinson, who describes himself as a "hair artist," was in court Tuesday charged with allowing his Filipina maid to work at a salon. Hong Kong's army of Filipino domestic helpers are normally barred from taking other jobs here, for fear of upsetting the labour market. Mr. Robinson, an Australian known as Kim, has been tending the locks of the local and international elite here for 20 years. He has denied the charge. Mr. Robinson, 38, has been called on to attend their former royal highnesses at swanky Hong Kong hotels before charity and private functions. He has dashed home to Australia to provide the crowning glory to a Vogue fashion shoot of super model Linda Evangelista. Also on the client list for Mr. Robinson, who charges customers at his Le Salon Orient chain 3,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$390) for the personal treatment, are Naomi Campbell, actress Isabella Rossellini and local singing star Anita Mui. He is charged with allowing his maid Remedios Naguit to work at one of his salons from November 1992 to July 1995.

Vatican against destruction of frozen embryos

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Destruction of frozen embryos is a "pre-natal slaughter" that violates Roman Catholic principles on the beginning of life, the Vatican commentary said Monday. A lengthy analysis in the official Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano acknowledged the "delicate moral problems" posed by preserving embryos, but insisted each should have full human rights. Roman Catholic teaching says life begins at conception. "Each year, tens of thousands of embryos will be destroyed, tens of thousands of innocent lives will be legally cut short," wrote Francis the theologian Rev. Maurizio Faggioni, who noted many countries have limits on the length of time a frozen embryo is saved. "This is a pre-natal slaughter... an instrument of perverse logic of violence and death," he wrote.

Egypt Islamic conference backs interfaith dialogue

CAIRO (R) — Delegates from over 70 countries gathered in Cairo on Wednesday for a conference aimed at promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace and at encouraging interfaith dialogue.

Jewish representatives and delegates from Iraq will be notable absentees from the dialogue that Egypt hopes to promote.

The gathering, called "Islam and the Future of Civilisations," is being organised by Egypt's Supreme Islamic Affairs Council, part of the religious endowments ministry.

"We want to send the world a message that Islam is a religion that adopted dialogue from the start, that it calls for peace, brotherhood, cooperation and love among humanity and that it does not attack anyone," Egypt's Religious Endowments Minister Mahmoud Zakzouk told a news conference on Tuesday.

Mr. Zakzouk said representatives from 71 countries had accepted invitations. The conference, the eighth annual meeting of its kind, will end on Saturday, the eve of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

"The image of Islam has been distorted in an unprecedented manner, particularly in the Western media. We want to show the world that you must distinguish between extremist phenomena in Islamic countries, which have their equivalent all over the world, and have nothing to do with religion even if its perpetrators hide behind religious facades," he said.

Egypt is fighting a four-year-old insurgency by Muslim militants aiming to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak and install a strict Islamic state. Nearly 1,000 people have been killed in the violence.

Mr. Mubarak has described the militants as mercenaries who have distorted the message of Islam.

"We haven't invited anyone from the Jewish side under the current circumstance. I think it is clear why. In the future it is possible. We are not afraid of dialogue with any party," Mr. Zakzouk said.

Many Muslim countries were critical of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979, and continue to be wary of the Jewish state for its continued annexation of East Jerusalem, the third holiest site in Islam.

U.S. House backs broad sanctions on Libya, Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House (of Representatives) approved on Tuesday a sweeping sanctions bill to punish foreign companies that invest in the oil and gas fields of Libya and Iran.

On a voice vote, the House gave final approval to the legislation, which now goes to President Bill Clinton. The sanctions legislation has sparked threats of retaliation from U.S. allies in Europe, whose oil companies have major stakes in Libya and plans to invest in Iran.

The bill, which does not affect existing investments, would require the president to impose two sanctions out of a list of six on firms that invest \$40 million or more in one year in Iran or Libya.

It would also impose sanctions on firms that break existing United Nations embargoes against Libya, including a ban on sales of oil refinery equipment.

Its backers in Congress designed the bill to put pressure on European countries, Japan and others to discourage investment in Iran and Libya, which Washington considers sponsors of terrorism.

The White House has not said whether Mr. Clinton will sign the bill, but an official said on Monday that the administration would have preferred a bill without investment sanctions against Libya. Republican congressional sources predicted, however, that Mr. Clinton would sign the bill into law.

Egypt group praises female circumcision ban

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group lauded on Tuesday Egypt's health ministry for banning female circumcision.

"The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) welcomes the decision by the ministry of health to ban female genital mutilation and the practical procedures initiated to implement this decision," the group said in a statement.

Women's rights activists estimate around 6,000 girls

a day across the world are subjected to female circumcision, also known as genital mutilation for the severe form it often takes.

Last week Health Minister Ismail Salam decreed female circumcision or clitoridectomy illegal and announced plans to spend more than 191 million pounds on raising public awareness of women's health and renovating female health services.

"EOHR believes the decision to ban female genital

mutilation is a successful culmination of various civil societal institutions' efforts exerted over several years to end this deplorable custom," it added.

Circumcision in Egypt is usually performed by a traditional midwife or barber using unsterilised equipment to remove part or all of the clitoris and other parts of the genitalia. Side effects include haemorrhage, shock and sexual dysfunction.

EOHR launched a campaign against female circumcision in 1994, saying it contravened human rights and international conventions against torture.

Religious justification for the operation is based on a poorly authenticated saying of the Prophet Muhammad appears to favour partial removal of the clitoris but many people argue that the practice is African rather than Islamic. It is little practised in the Arabian peninsula.

Bosnian delegation pays landmark visit to Serbia

BELGRADE (R) — Bosnia sent a trade delegation to meet former foes in the Serbian capital Belgrade on Tuesday in the first such visit by the Muslim-led government since the Bosnian conflict erupted four years ago.

Ministers from the Muslim-Croat Federation and Bosnian businessmen landed in Belgrade to promote trade with the government which opposed Bosnia's drive for independence and sponsored the siege of their capital, Sarajevo.

Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic led the 15-member delegation in a trip which would have been impossible less than a year ago.

"This is a risky step for me but a very sure and safe step for Bosnia," Mr. Ganic told reporters before leaving Sarajevo.

"We would like to see stability in the region and my trip really has to do with long-term stability in this part of Europe."

Diplomats hailed the landmark visit as a first step towards reconciliation made possible by the U.S.-brokered Dayton peace

agreement, which ended 3-1/2 years of fighting last November.

Mr. Ganic's 15-member delegation, which flew from Sarajevo on a U.S. military aircraft, held talks with Serbia's Chamber of Commerce and leading company managers amid tight security.

Mr. Ganic entered the presidency building in the city centre after mid-day for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the man Muslims see as the main supporter of their Bosnian Serb foes throughout the 43-month war.

It was an unlikely meeting between two men portrayed as villains and war criminals by rival media.

Earlier, Bosnian Foreign Minister Jadranko Prica, a Croat, met Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic in talks described by the state Tanjug news agency as "open, full of understanding and mutual respect."

The two sides planned to discuss restoring telephone, trade and air links between Sarajevo and Belgrade which were cut off soon after violence erupted in

April 1992.

The trade mission was announced last week by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke after a round of shuttle diplomacy primarily aimed at sidelining Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Mr. Milosevic agreed to oust Mr. Karadzic, a hard-line nationalist and arch-enemy of the Sarajevo government, in a move which helped pave the way for Tuesday's visit.

Mr. Holbrooke, architect of the Dayton accord, called the visit an important sign of progress in the peace process.

For the Muslim-led government, the official visit meant the beginning of normalising relations with Serbia after demanding Mr. Milosevic's total isolation during the war.

For Belgrade, it was the first step towards recognising Bosnia as an independent state.

Mr. Ganic, a Muslim politician known for supporting tough military action against the Serbs throughout the war, adopted a pragmatic tone when he discussed the visit last week.

"You know, we didn't choose our neighbours. We have to work with our neighbours, we have to build the bridges," Mr. Ganic told reporters.

Although the fighting never spread to Serbia proper, its economy is in ruins due to mismanagement, a costly war and economic sanctions imposed on Belgrade for its support of the Bosnian Serbs.

Bosnia has been promised international aid for post-war reconstruction but economists say reviving industrial production is a long way off in the devastated country.

Former Yugoslavia was a single economic unit before the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia broke away.

All economic ties between rump Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, and the Muslim-Croat part of Bosnia were severed when Bosnia declared independence in 1992.

The Bosnian Serb-controlled half of the war-torn country kept a close relationship with neighbouring Serbia throughout the war.

NEWS IN BRIEF

20 Somalis killed in fresh fighting

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least 20 people were killed and 50 others wounded in a fresh outbreak of fighting on Tuesday morning in the Medina district of south Mogadishu, hospital sources said here. The fighting was between supporters of warlord General Mohammad Farah Aided and his arch-rival, self-styled interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

Sudan repulses attack from Eritrea

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has repulsed an armed attack from across the border with Eritrea in a clash leaving several dead, the government daily Al Engaz Al Watani reported on Tuesday. A military source quoted by the paper said Sudanese troops "managed to turn back a treacherous attack launched from within Eritrean territories by a company supported by armoured vehicles." It did not clarify if the attack, which targeted Sudan's Jebel Abu Gamul post near the border, was by Sudanese opposition forces based in Eritrea or by Eritrean troops. The Sudanese army "chased away the enemy forces, which retreated back into Eritrea, leaving their dead behind," the source said without specifying the number killed, or when the attack took place.

3 get death penalty in Iran for spying

TEHRAN (AFP) — A revolutionary court on Tuesday sentenced to death an Iranian Jew who converted to Islam and two other businessmen for spying for Israel and the United States and fraud, Iranian radio reported. Hedayatollah Zendehele, Abolghasem Majid-Abkahi and Alireza Yazdanshenas were accused of gathering classified military information during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and passing it to foreign countries, notably Iran's arch foe, the United States. They were also accused of setting up a "network of corruption and fictitious firms to cheat people and state banks out of their money and looting public funds," the radio said.

Meningitis scare in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — A total of 17 cases of viral meningitis in children have been reported in the Cypriot town of Limassol causing alarm among health officials, state radio reported Tuesday. The radio, quoting medical sources, said 14 children under the age of six are currently being treated in hospital in Limassol, a popular tourist spot on the southeast coast of the Mediterranean island. Two babies aged two and three months respectively together with a four-year-old child have already left hospital within the past two weeks after being treated for meningitis, said the radio without giving details of the suspected source of the illness.

Scorpion delays flight in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A domestic Iranian airliner had to abruptly halt a flight after a scorpion bit a passenger in the plane as it was preparing for take-off, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The plane was taxiing along the runway in the southern city of Kerman for a flight to Tehran when the passenger began to "let out loud cries" after being stung, Hamshahri daily said. The passenger was evacuated from the plane to receive treatment and the scorpion was killed by the crew.

King holds talks

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein met with British Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday and discussed with him the peace process and efforts to bring stability to the region. The king also discussed the question of the urgent need to establish the Jordanian National Guard and the role of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Number 628

Volume 21

Health Sabah

Marital success

King's surgery

Phase

Kabarti

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah

Al Sabah